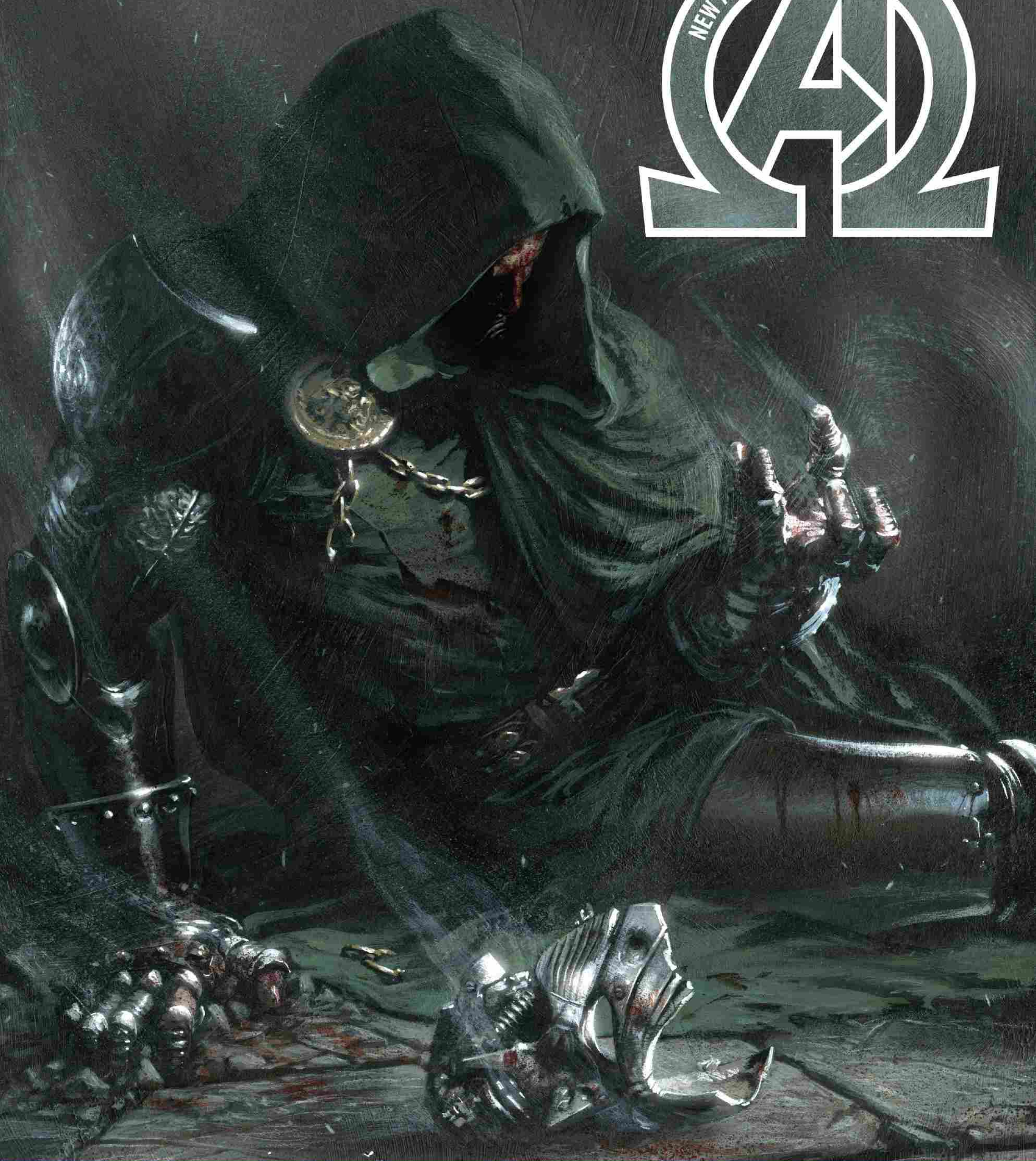


IN 1 MONTH ... TIME RUNS OUT!

SECRET WARS



MARVEL

**HICKMAN
DEODATO
MARTIN**

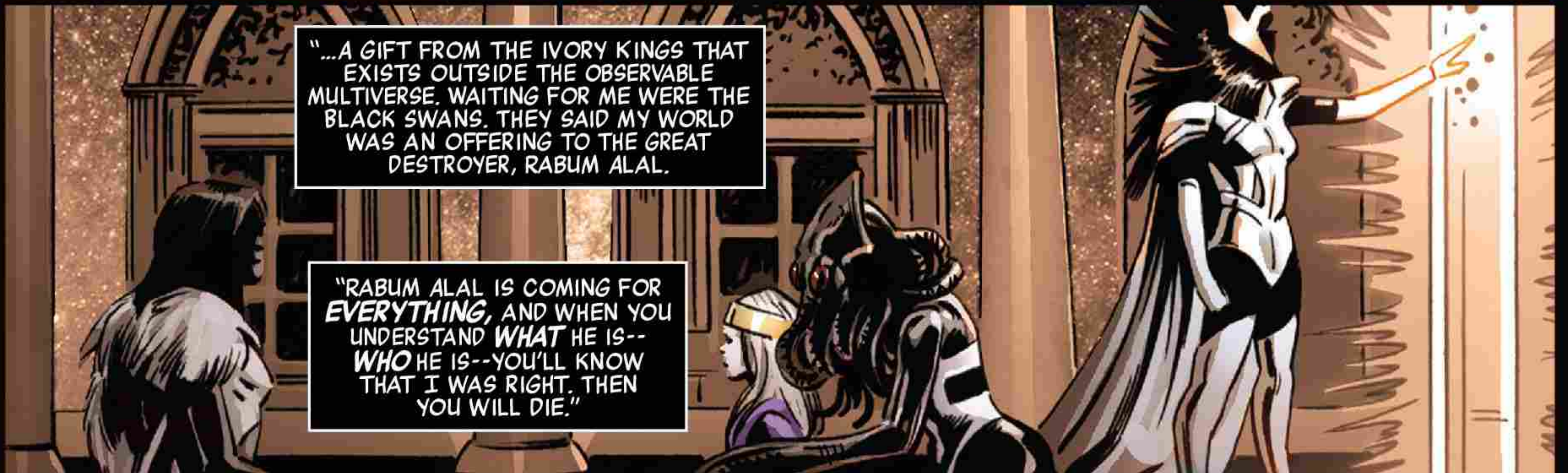
033

PREVIOUSLY IN NEW AVENGERS



"THERE WAS AN INCURSION ON MY WORLD. THE BLACK PRIESTS DESCENDED FROM THEIR EARTH TO OURS. NO ONE WAS SPARED. NO ONE ESCAPED--EXCEPT ME.

"I ESCAPED INTO THE LIBRARY OF WORLDS..."



"...A GIFT FROM THE IVORY KINGS THAT EXISTS OUTSIDE THE OBSERVABLE MULTIVERSE. WAITING FOR ME WERE THE BLACK SWANS. THEY SAID MY WORLD WAS AN OFFERING TO THE GREAT DESTROYER, RABUM ALAL.

"RABUM ALAL IS COMING FOR **EVERYTHING**, AND WHEN YOU UNDERSTAND **WHAT** HE IS--**WHO** HE IS--YOU'LL KNOW THAT I WAS RIGHT. THEN YOU WILL DIE."



NO *SEEING* SWAN CAN WITHSTAND THE BLINDING LIGHT OF THE GREAT DESTROYER.

YEARS AGO I LEFT THE FLOCK AND DUG OUT MY EYES WITH MY OWN HANDS SO I MIGHT SERVE AT HIS FEET.

I HOPE HE BURNS THE SKIN FROM YOUR TRESPASSING BONES.



DOOM? YOU'RE RABUM ALAL?

I AM. I'VE BUILT A RELIGION...WE'RE READY FOR WAR.

YOU REMEMBER THE MOLECULE MAN? HE IS AN ORACLE FOR THE TIMES.

THEY'RE OUT THERE...THE IVORY KINGS. THE BEYONDERS. HOW CAN WE DEFEAT THEM?



"FOR IT TAKES A GOD TO KILL A GOD."

YOU WANTED TO SEE WHERE IT ALL STARTED...WELL, HERE IT IS. I LIVED HERE ONCE. SOME SMALL BIT OF ME CALLED IT HOME.

YOU'LL NEED TO GET BUSY. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS, VICTOR?

I DO. EVERYONE HAS LIMITS...

EVERYONE BUT DOOM.

THE ILLUMINATI



BEAST



**HULK/
DOC GREEN**



**REED
RICHARDS**



**BLACK
BOLT**



**BLACK
PANTHER**



**CAPTAIN
BRITAIN**



**AMADEUS
CHO**



IRON MAN



**DOCTOR
STRANGE**



YELLOWJACKET

THE CABAL



NAMOR



THANOS



BLACK SWAN



TERRAX



MAXIMUS



**PROXIMA
MIDNIGHT**



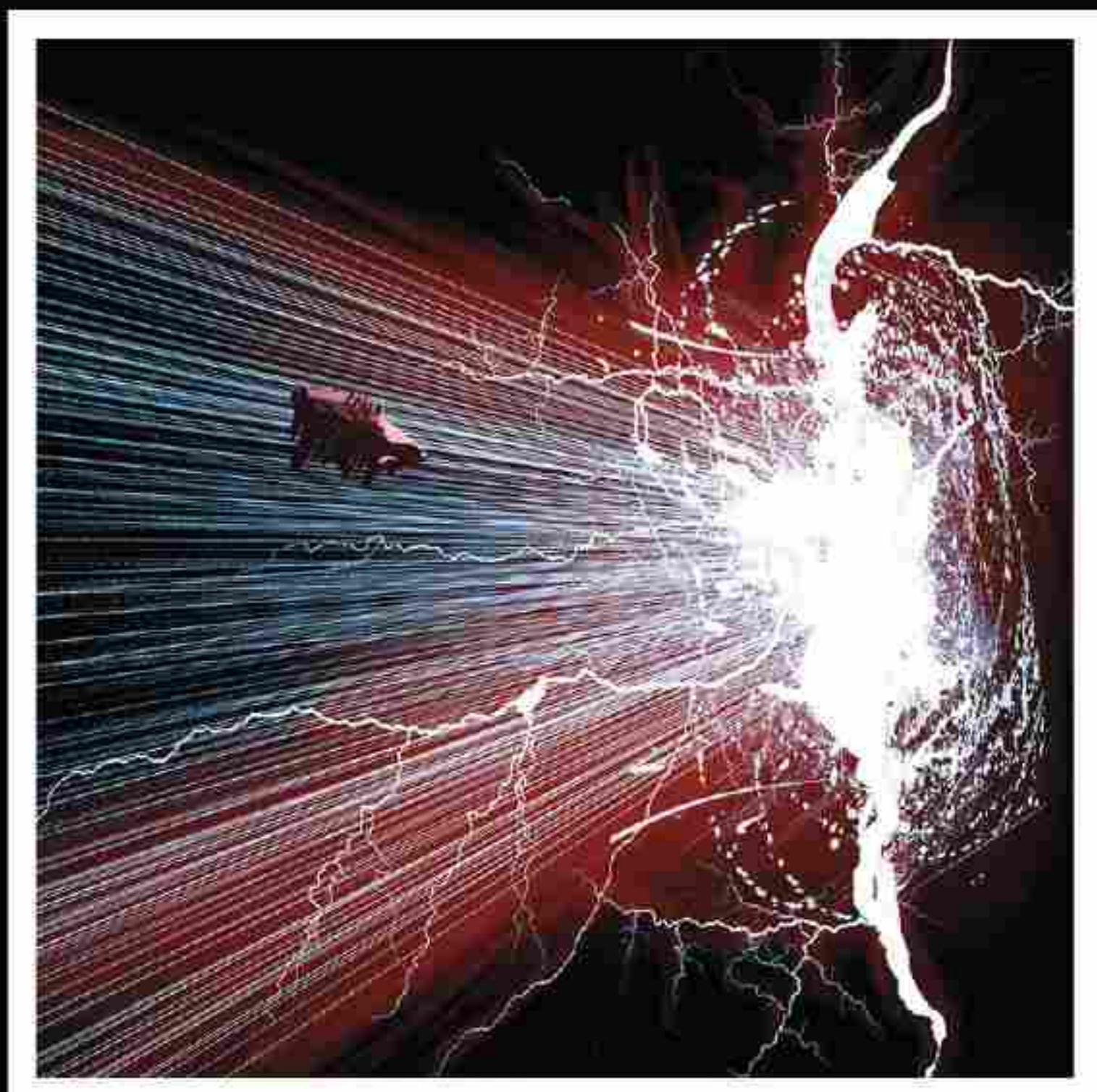
**CORVUS
GLAIVE**



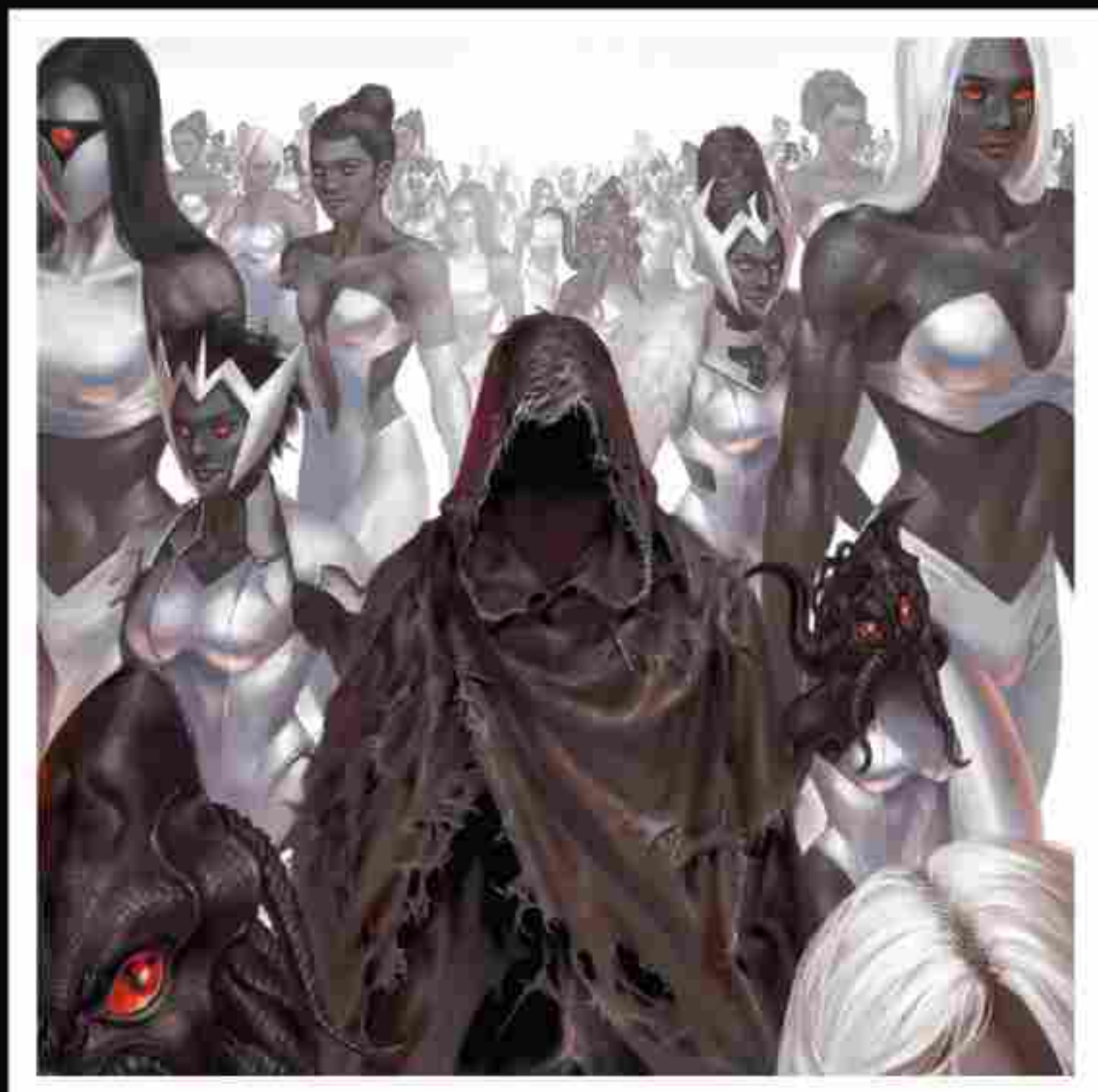
**DOCTOR
DOOM**



**MOLECULE
MAN**



BEYONDERS



BLACK SWANS



“IN LATVERIA, THE FLOWERS DIE IN SUMMER”

WRITER: **JONATHAN HICKMAN**

ARTIST: **MIKE DEODATO**

COLOR ARTIST: **FRANK MARTIN**

LETTERER: **VC's JOE CARAMAGNA**

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PUBLISHER: **DAN BUCKLEY**

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: **ALAN FINE**

AVENGERS CREATED BY **STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY**

"DO YOU
WANT TO HEAR
A STORY?"

"HERE IS A
STORY..."

YOU
WANTED TO
SEE WHERE IT
STARTED...WELL,
HERE IT IS,
VICTOR...

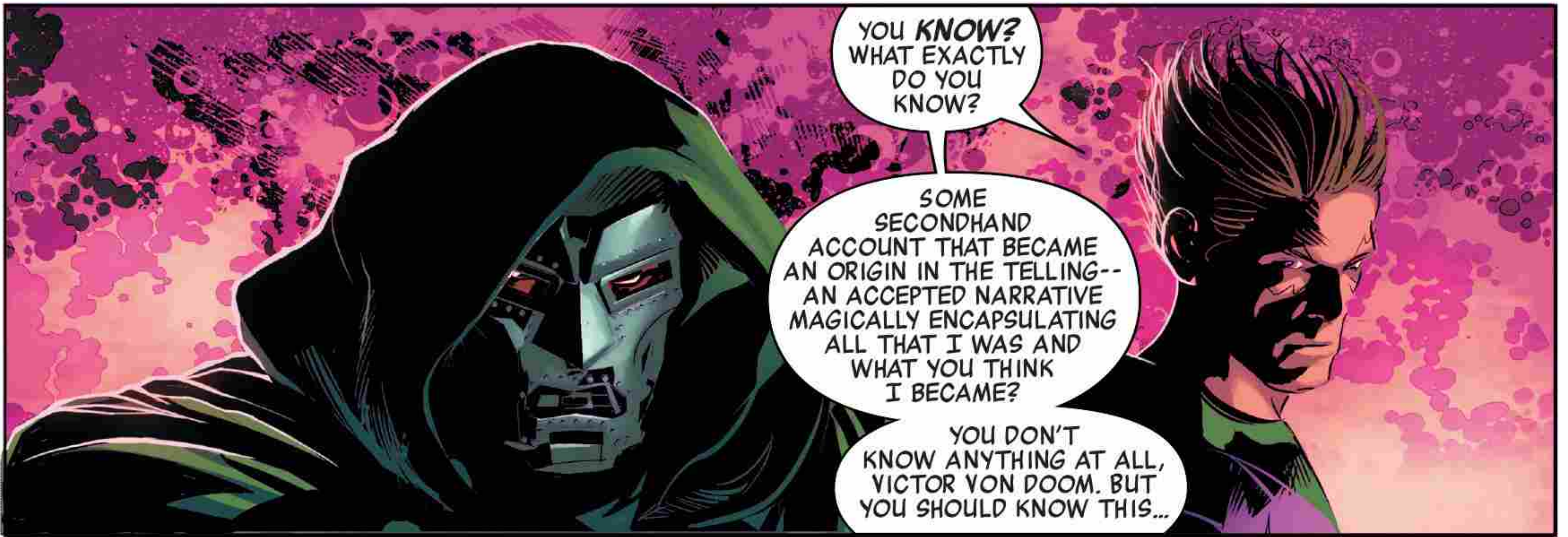
OR DO
YOU NEED TO
SEE IT MORE
CLEARLY?

YES.

I'VE BUILT
YOUR DOOR,
MISTER
REECE...
CAN YOU
SHOW US THE
WAY NOW THAT
I'VE OPENED
IT?

THE WAY
IS DOWN,
VICTOR...







WATCH.

YOU'RE A
MAN OF BOTH
SCIENCE AND
MAGIC,
VICTOR.

THE
NATURAL AND
UNNATURAL...

QUITE THE
DICHOTOMY, AND THE ONE
PERSON PERFECTLY CAPABLE
OF FULLY COMPREHENDING
WHAT I'M GOING TO
TELL YOU.



I AM
NOT A MAN. NOT
THE WAY THAT MOST
PEOPLE UNDERSTAND
"BEING HUMAN."

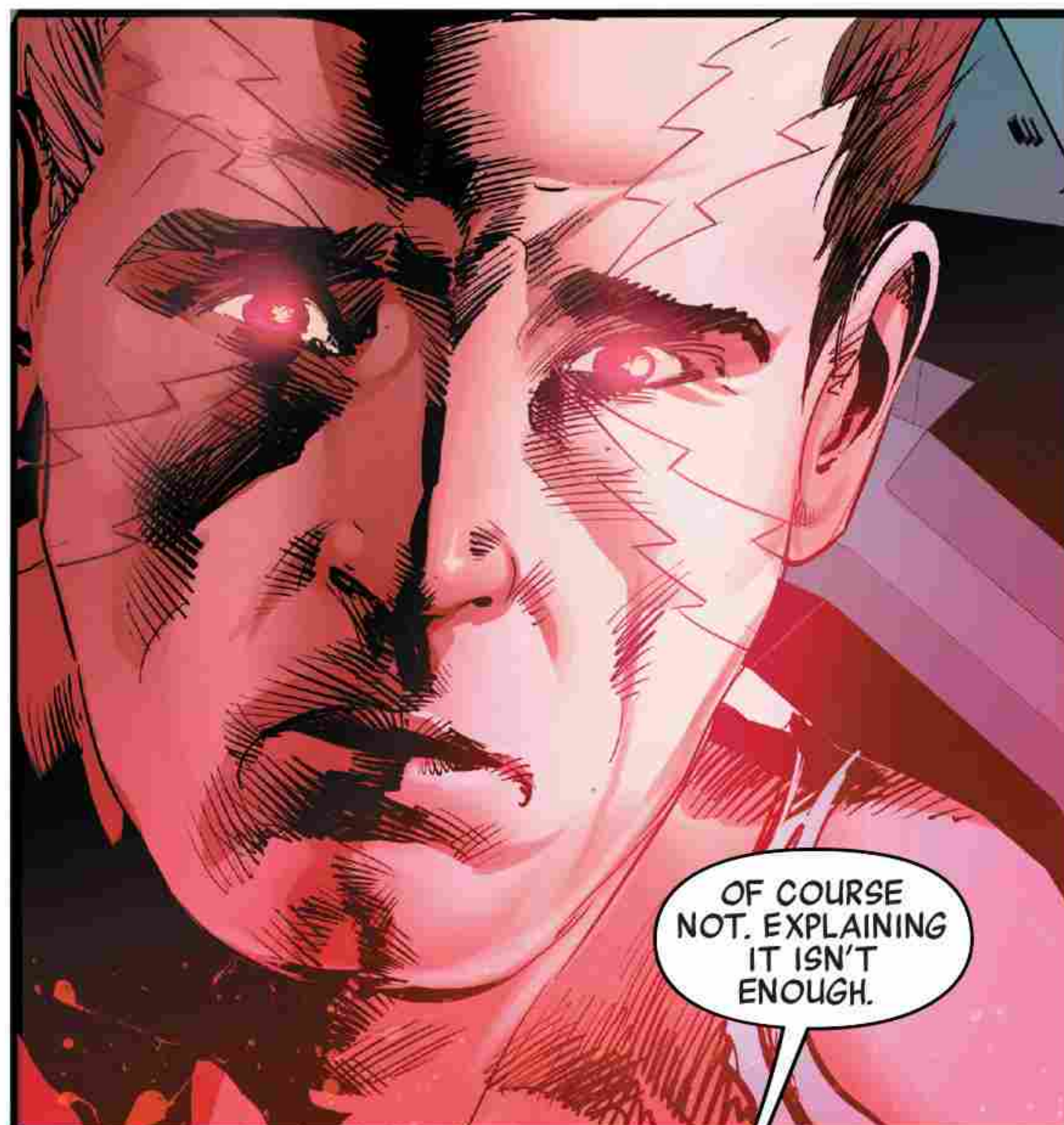
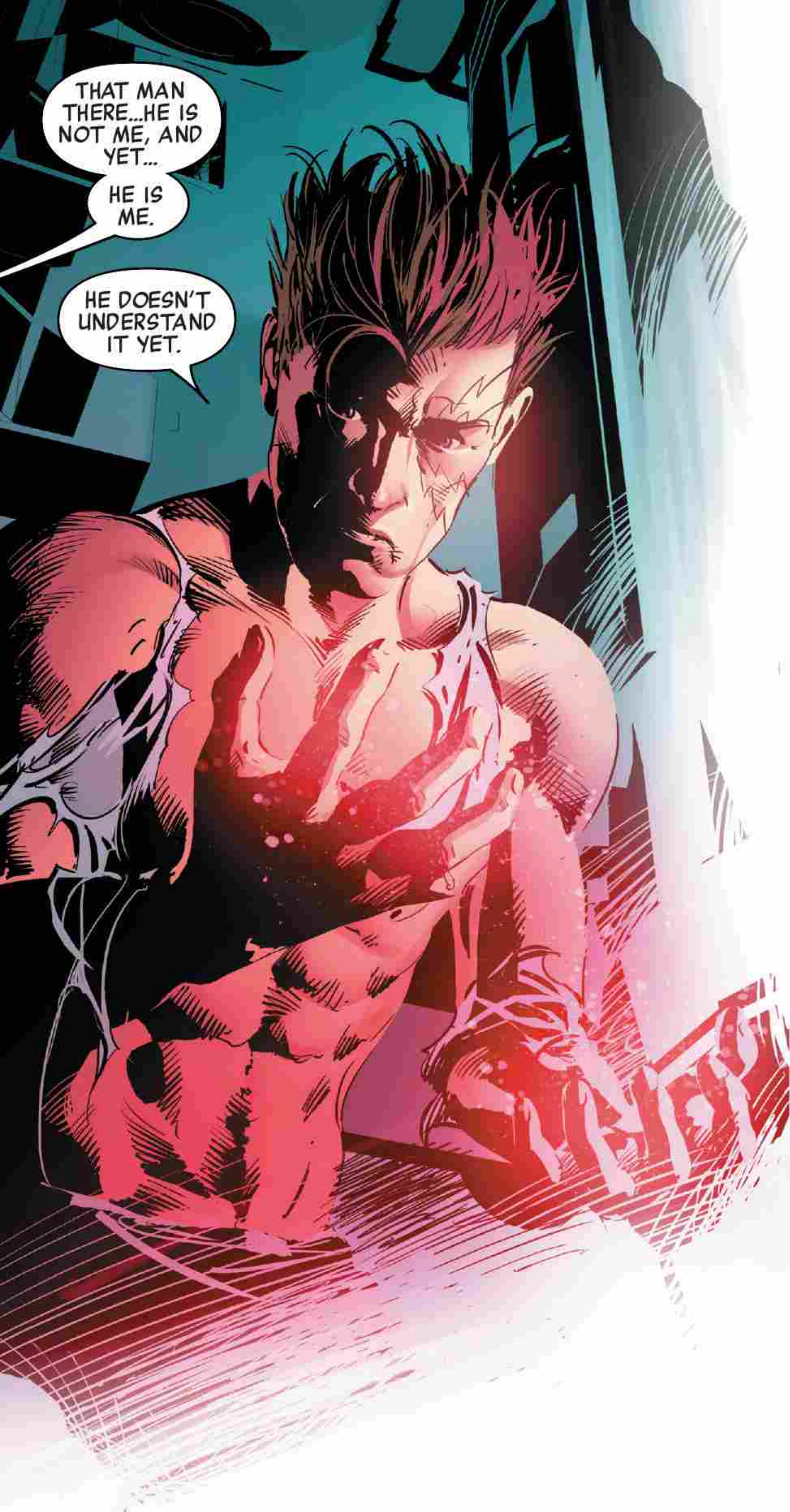
HERE WE
ARE NOW--NOT
ONLY HAVE WE FALLEN
BACK IN TIME TO MY
SO-CALLED ORIGIN, BUT
WE ARE IN ANOTHER
UNIVERSE ALL
TOGETHER.

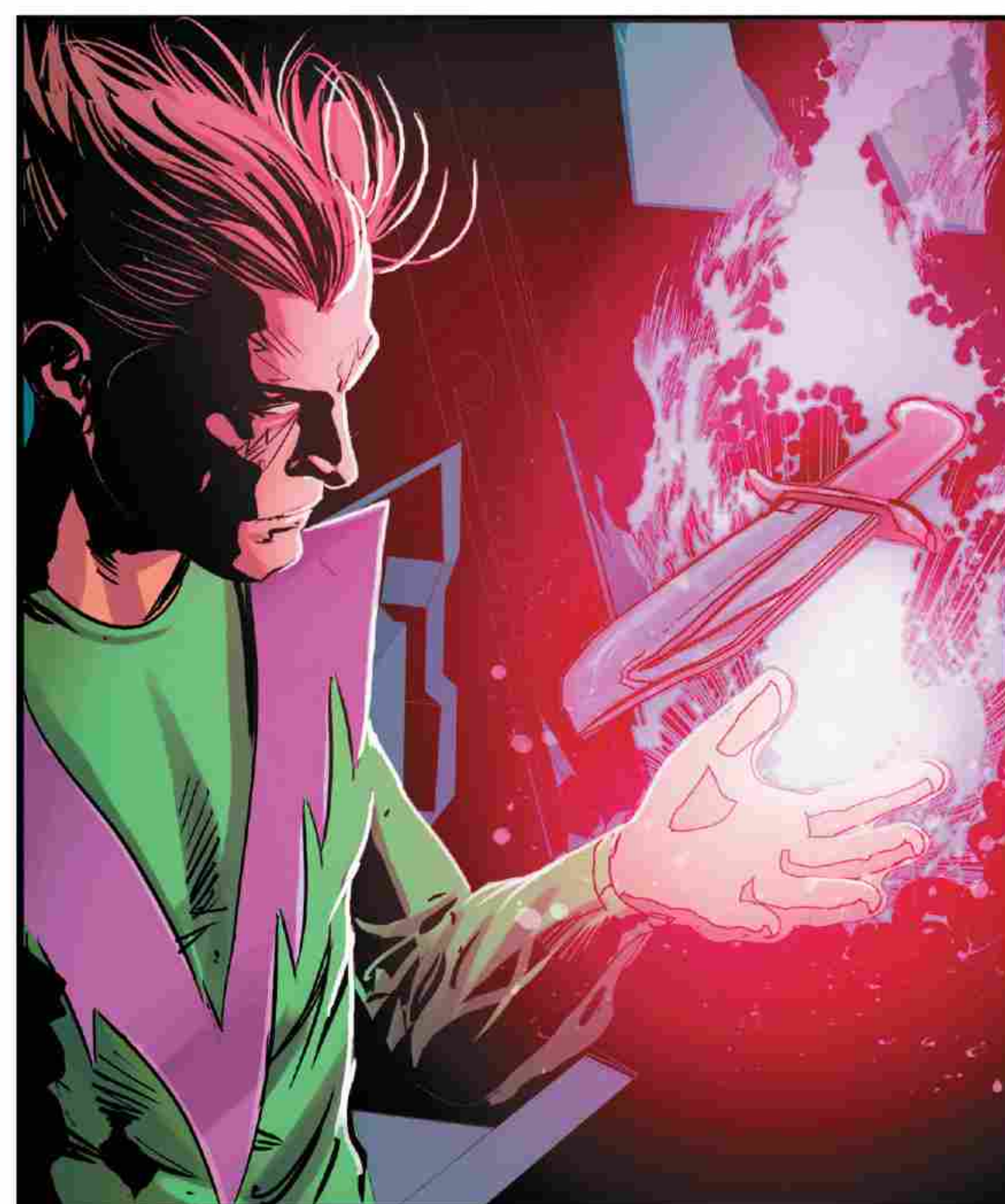


NATURAL AND
UNNATURAL.

A MACHINE
OF GREAT SCIENCE...
AND THE MAGIC ON
WHICH IT RUNS...







АДРР
ГНН
ННН
ННН

NOW
THAT MEMORY
IS GONE...
FOREVER...

AND
NOW, VICTOR,
YOUR... ORIGIN--
MUCH LIKE MINE--
IS A FICTION THAT
WILL BECOME
ACCEPTED
AS REAL.

BUT THIS
IS THE ONLY TIME
WE'RE GOING TO DO
THIS TOGETHER. FROM
NOW ON, IT'S
GOING TO BE UP
TO YOU.

IF YOU DON'T...
THEY'LL NEVER CALL YOU
THE GREAT DESTROYER.
WILL THEY, VICTOR?

THEY?

EVERYONE.

THE FALLEN.
THE VICTIMS OF
DYING WORLDS. YOUR
FAITHFUL. AND MORE
THAN ANYONE
ELSE...

YOUR
ENEMIES.

COME.
I'LL SHOW
YOU.

THIS IS THE
LIBRARY OF WORLDS.
A CONDUIT BETWEEN
UNIVERSES BUILT BY THE
BEYONDERS WHEN THEY
STILL BELIEVED "LIFE"
TO BE A VALUABLE
EXPERIMENT.



THE LIBRARY
EXISTS IN A VERSION
OF THE SAME UNOBSERVABLE
SPACE THE BEYONDERS
WATCH THE MULTIVERSE FROM.
AS SUCH, FROM HERE YOU
TOO WILL BE
UNOBSERVABLE...

BOTH TO
THE WORLDS,
AND TO
THEM.

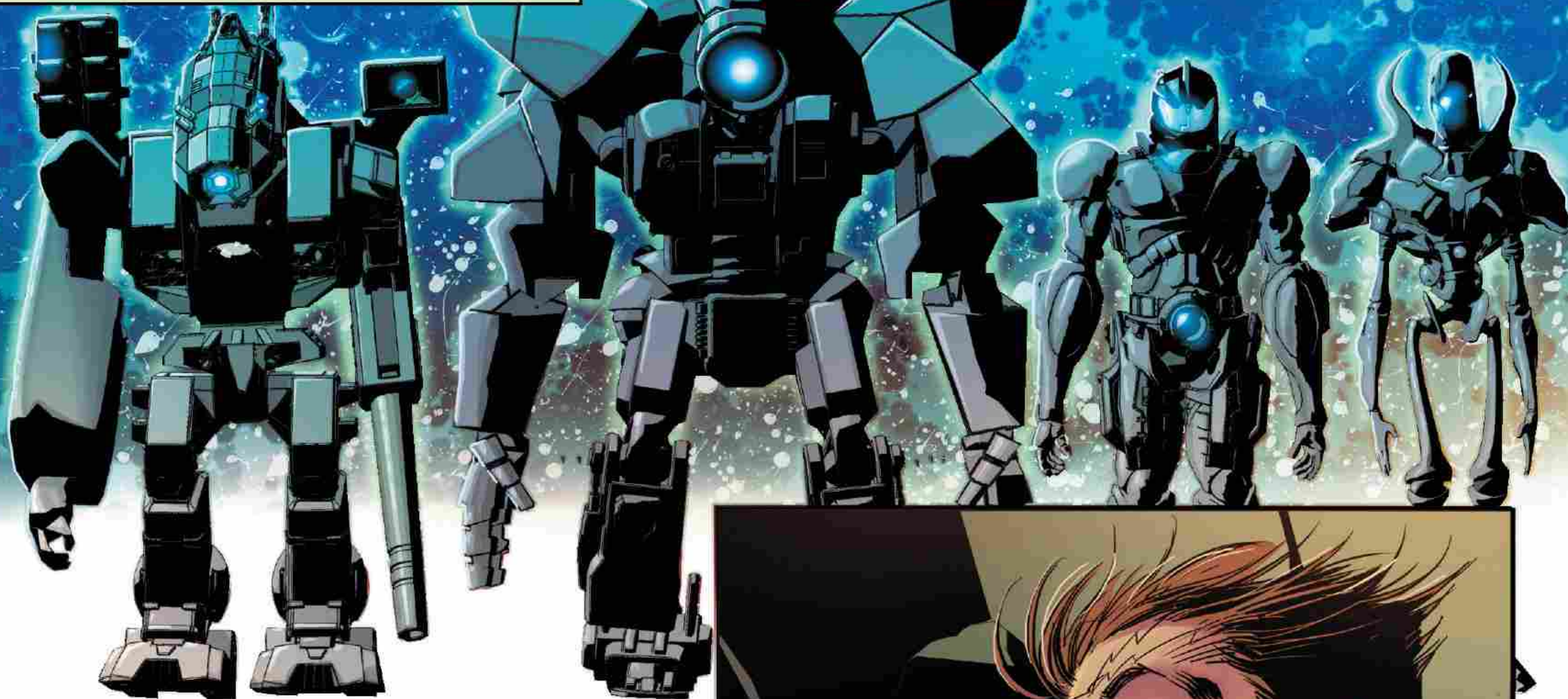
IF THERE
IS ONE THING I
HAVE LEARNED FROM
THE CONQUEST OF
COWARDS, IT'S THAT
ONE CANNOT HIDE
FOREVER.

OH, YOU WON'T BE
HIDING...AND YOU'RE
RIGHT, EVENTUALLY
YOU WILL BE
FOUND...

BUT THAT
WILL BE BY AN
OLD FRIEND. OUR
CONCERN--YOUR
SOLE CONCERN--
IS THE IVORY
KINGS THEMSELVES.
YOU MUST
STOP **THE**
BEYONDERS.

FROM
DOING WHAT
EXACTLY?

"CONDUCTING THEIR GRANDEST OF GRAND
EXPERIMENTS. **THE SIMULTANEOUS DEATH
OF EVERYTHING IN THE MULTIVERSE.**



"YOU REMEMBER YOUR FIRST
ENCOUNTER WITH THE CHILD
BEYONDER? IT DESTROYED A
UNIVERSE IN ORDER TO
CONSTRUCT A PLAY WORLD
OUT OF THE ASHES..."

"**THESE** ARE ITS
BETTERS, WITH FAR
MORE AMBITIOUS
GOALS..."

AND DO
YOU KNOW
WHAT **I**
AM?

I
AM THEIR
BOMB.





"ALL BEINGS EXIST IN VARIOUS STATES ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE. IN ONE REALITY PERHAPS YOU WERE A POET, IN ANOTHER A BEGGAR, IN ANOTHER A GOOD MAN.



"YOU ARE SOMEWHAT UNIQUE IN THAT THERE ARE LESS OF YOU THAN THERE SHOULD BE-- THE RESULT OF A GREAT CULLING OF DOOMS.



"STILL, WHAT FEW OF YOU REMAIN ARE ALL TO SOME DEGREE... DIFFERENT.



"I AM NOT. I WAS CONSTRUCTED AS A SINGULAR BEING ACROSS ALL OF SPACE AND TIME. AN OLD EXPERIMENT OF SHARED MINDS.



"A SINGLE CONSCIOUSNESS SHARED THROUGHOUT ALL MY INFINITE SELVES.



"THE MOMENT YOU SAW EARLIER--MY ORIGIN--WAS A BIT OF CELESTIAL MAGIC...THE CHARGING OF THE BOMB. AND IT HAPPENED SIMULTANEOUSLY ACROSS *EVERY* REALITY."





THEY LIT MY FUSE, AND NOW I-- ALL OF ME--AM TERMINAL. AND WHEN I DIE...I'LL TAKE **MY UNIVERSE** WITH ME.

AND THEY WANT TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE ALL GO OFF AT ONCE.

BUT THAT ISN'T WHAT OCCURRED. YOU DIED AND NOTHING HAPPENED.



SURE IT DID. BUT THAT ME--ONE OF AN INFINITE NUMBER OF ME'S--DIED EARLY. FIRST, IN FACT.

IF WE'RE GOING TO THWART THEIR PLAN, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO KILL A WHOLE LOT MORE OF ME...

AND SOON.

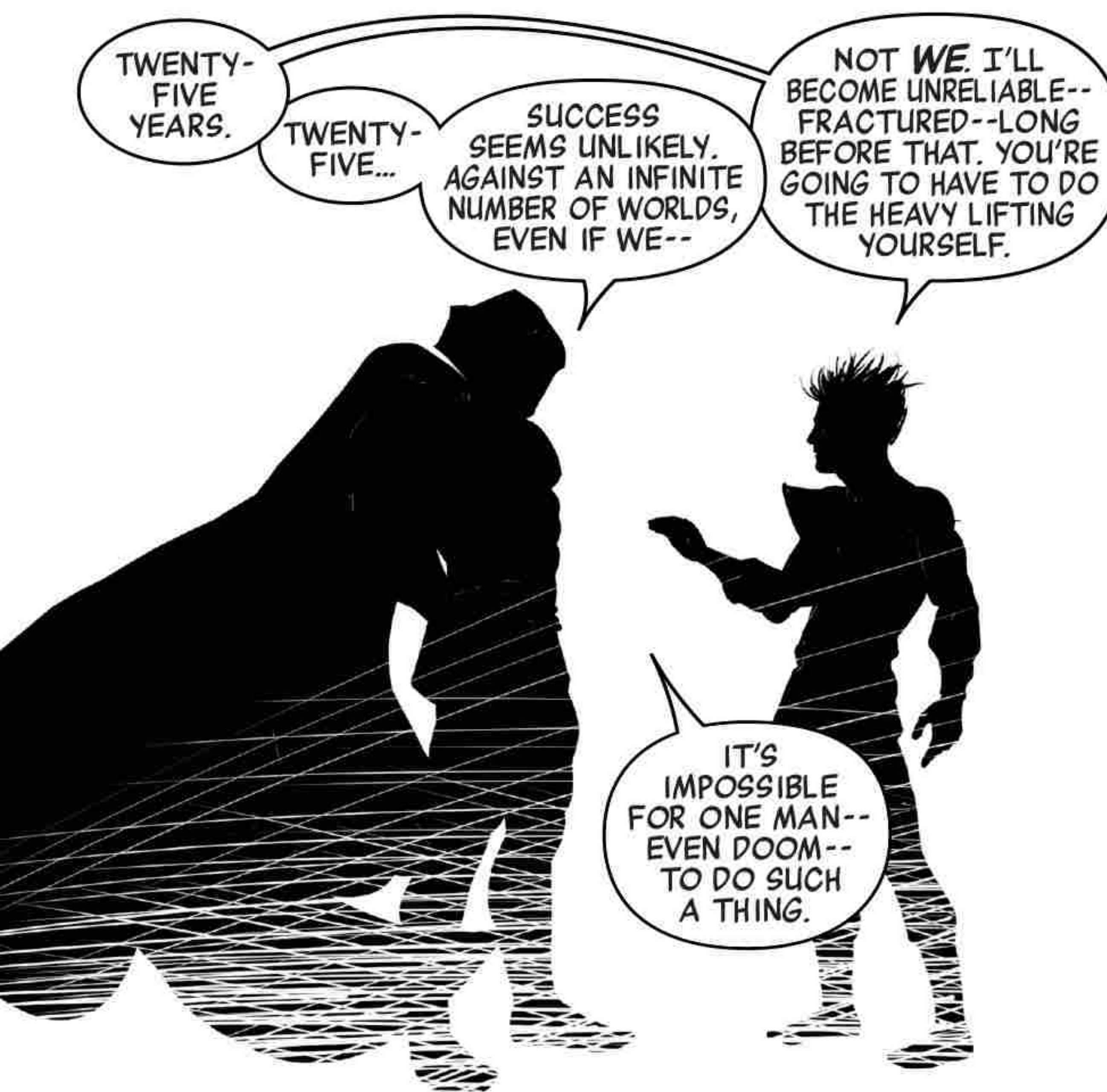
I'M NOT EVEN SURE I FIND ANY OF THIS BELIEVABLE.



YOU WILL. WHEN YOU REACH A HIGH ENOUGH THRESHOLD, YOU'LL START SEEING SOME REAL RESULTS FROM YOUR WORK.

THE BLUE AND RED SHIFT OF INCURSIONS.

HOW LONG DO YOU HAVE UNTIL YOU REACH YOUR FINAL TERMINAL STATE?



TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.

TWENTY-FIVE...

SUCCESS SEEMS UNLIKELY. AGAINST AN INFINITE NUMBER OF WORLDS, EVEN IF WE--

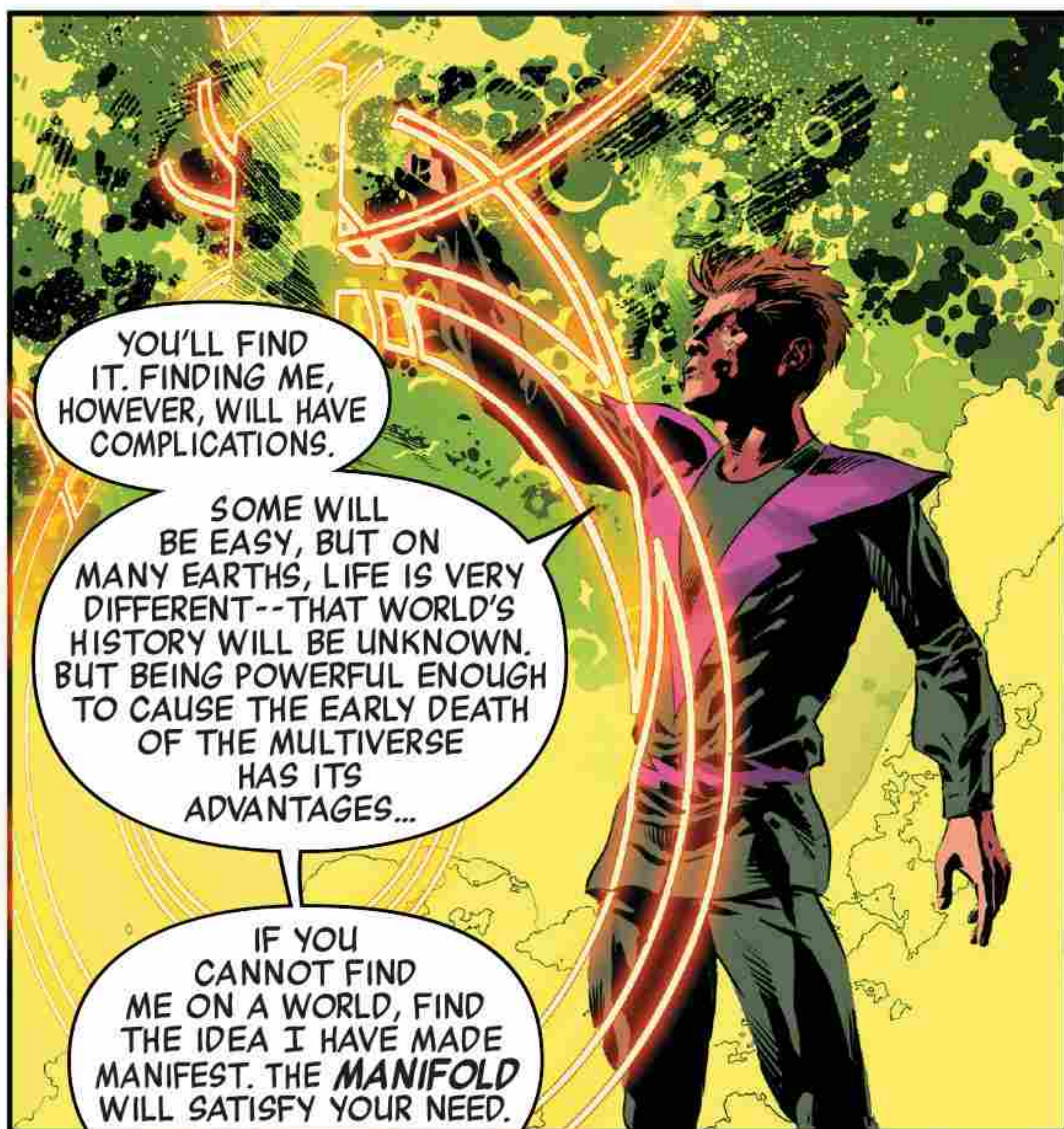
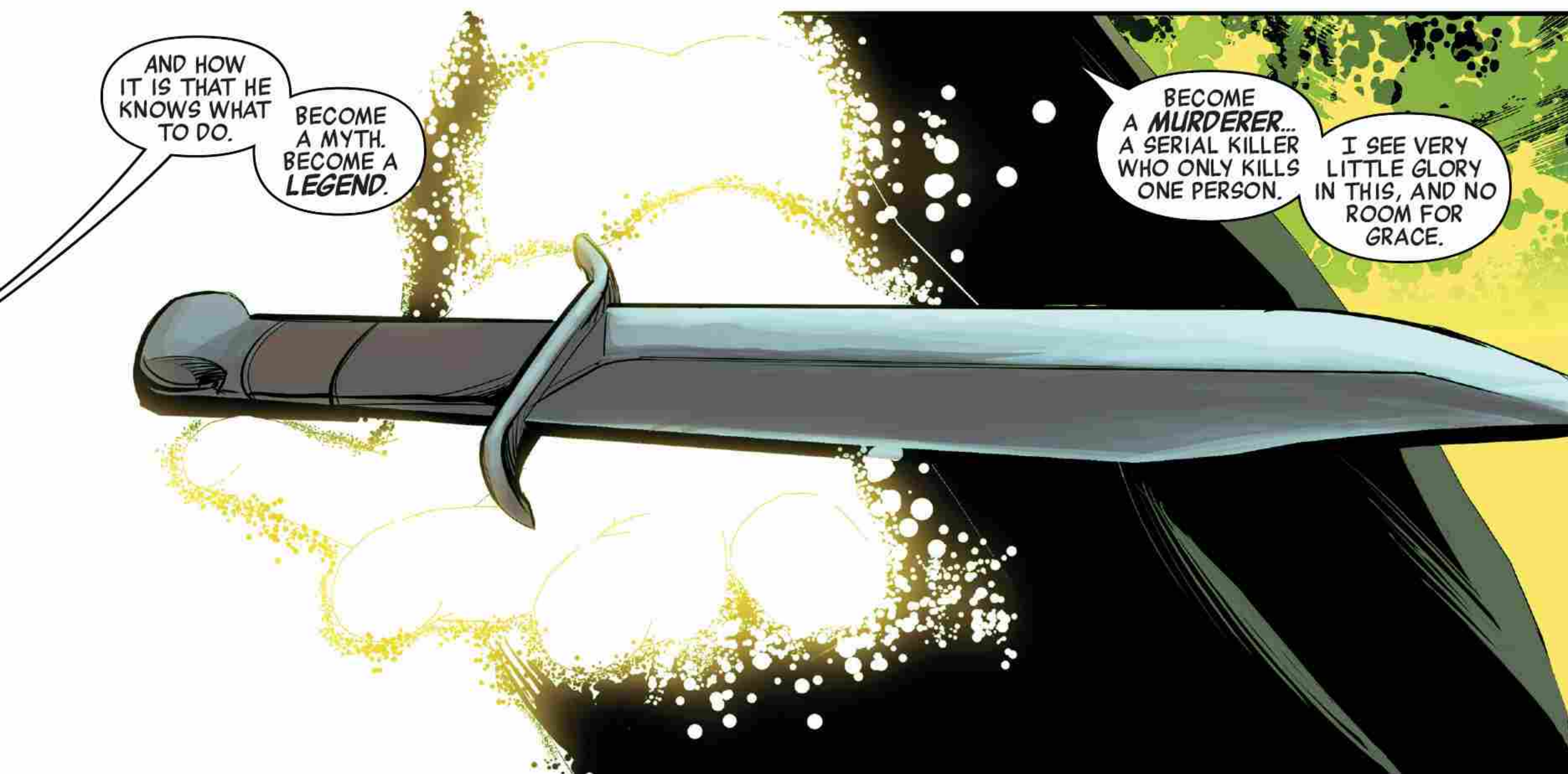
NOT **WE**. I'LL BECOME UNRELIABLE-- FRACTURED--LONG BEFORE THAT. YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO THE HEAVY LIFTING YOURSELF.

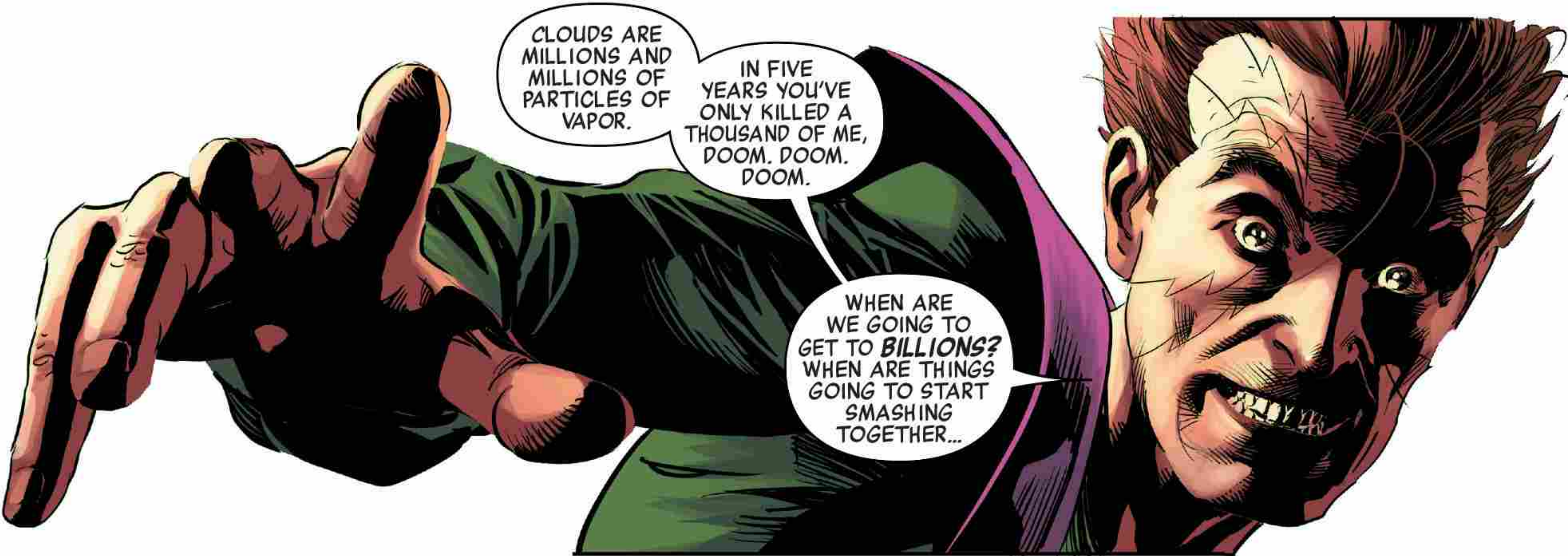
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ONE MAN-- EVEN DOOM-- TO DO SUCH A THING.



I KNOW...

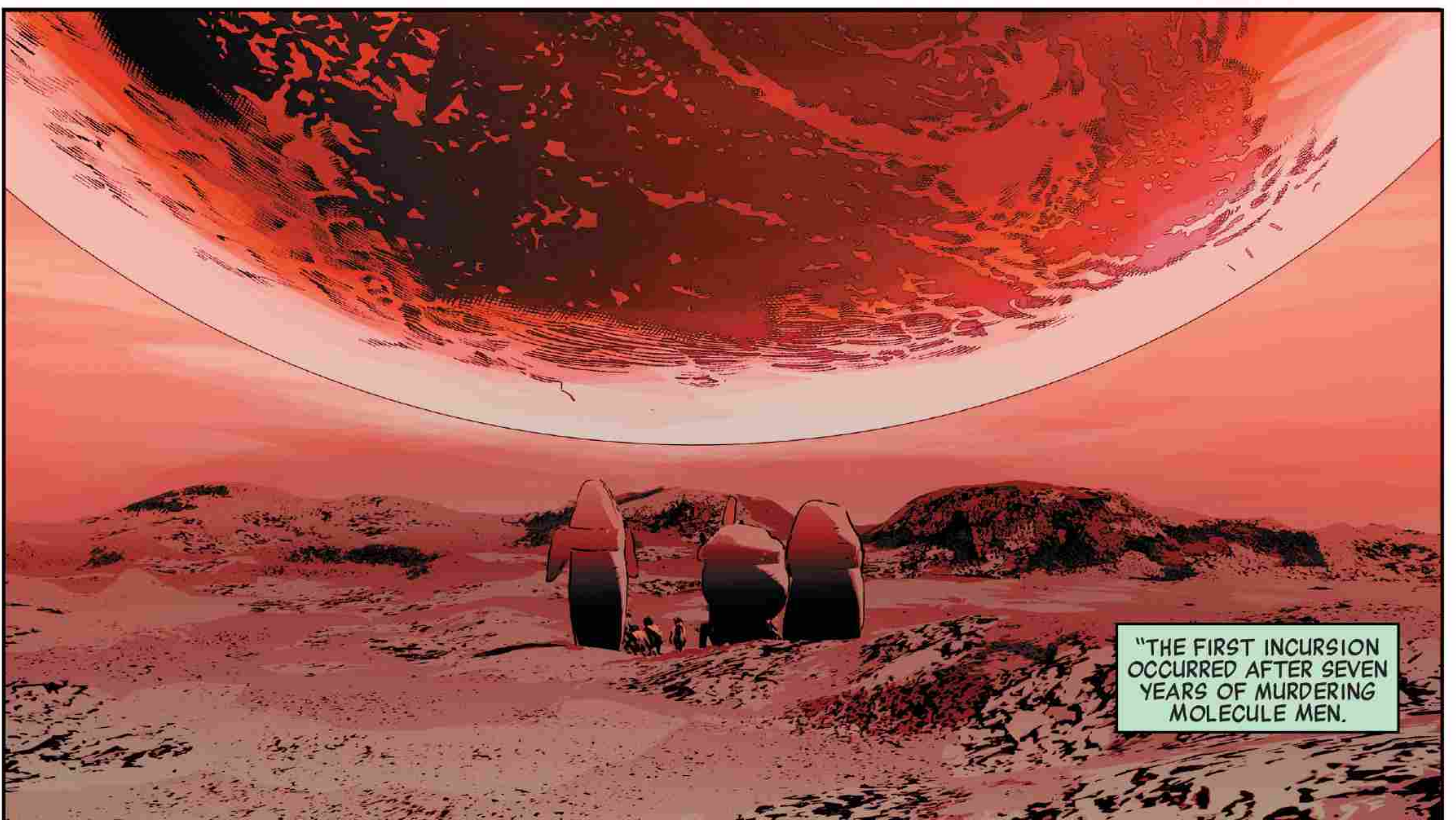
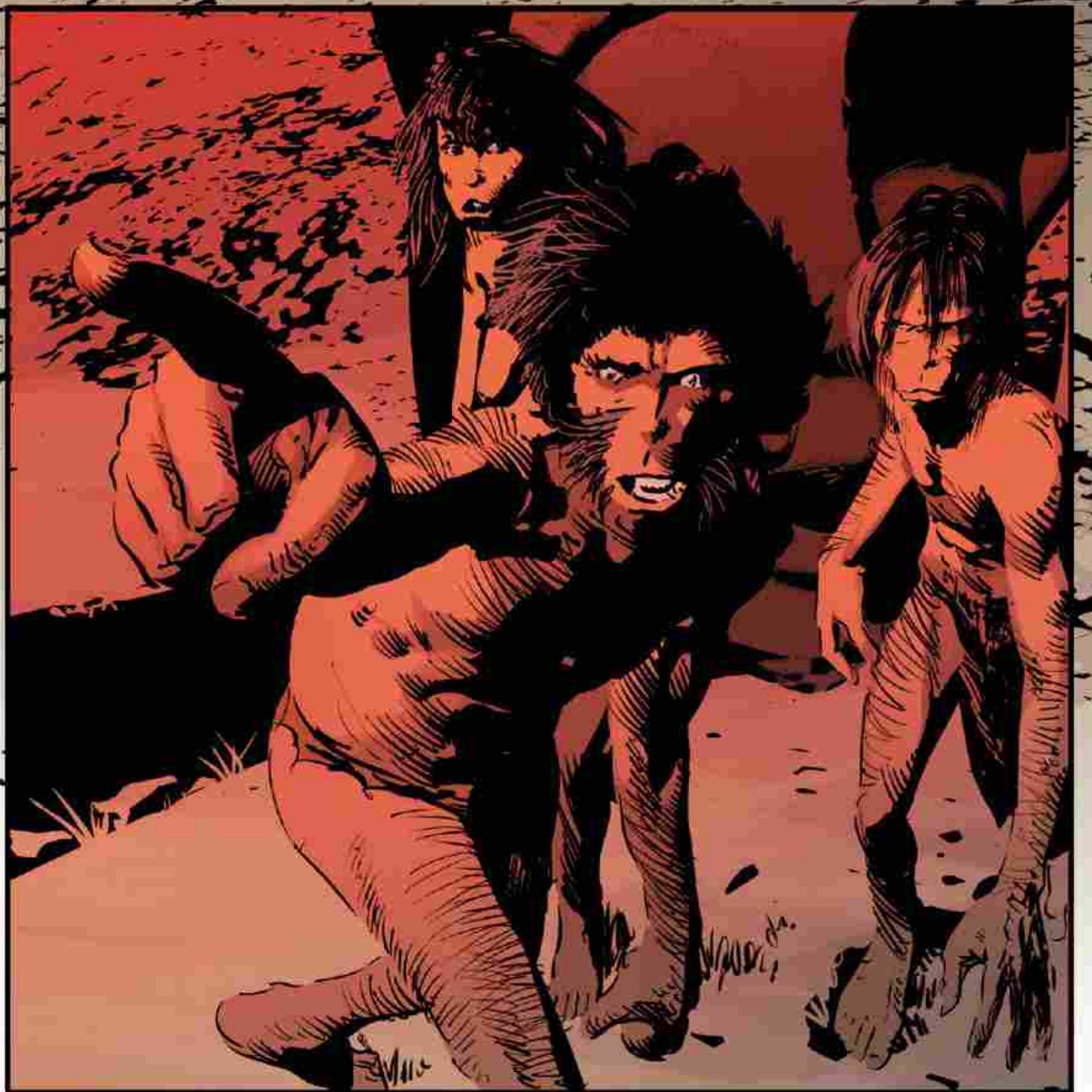
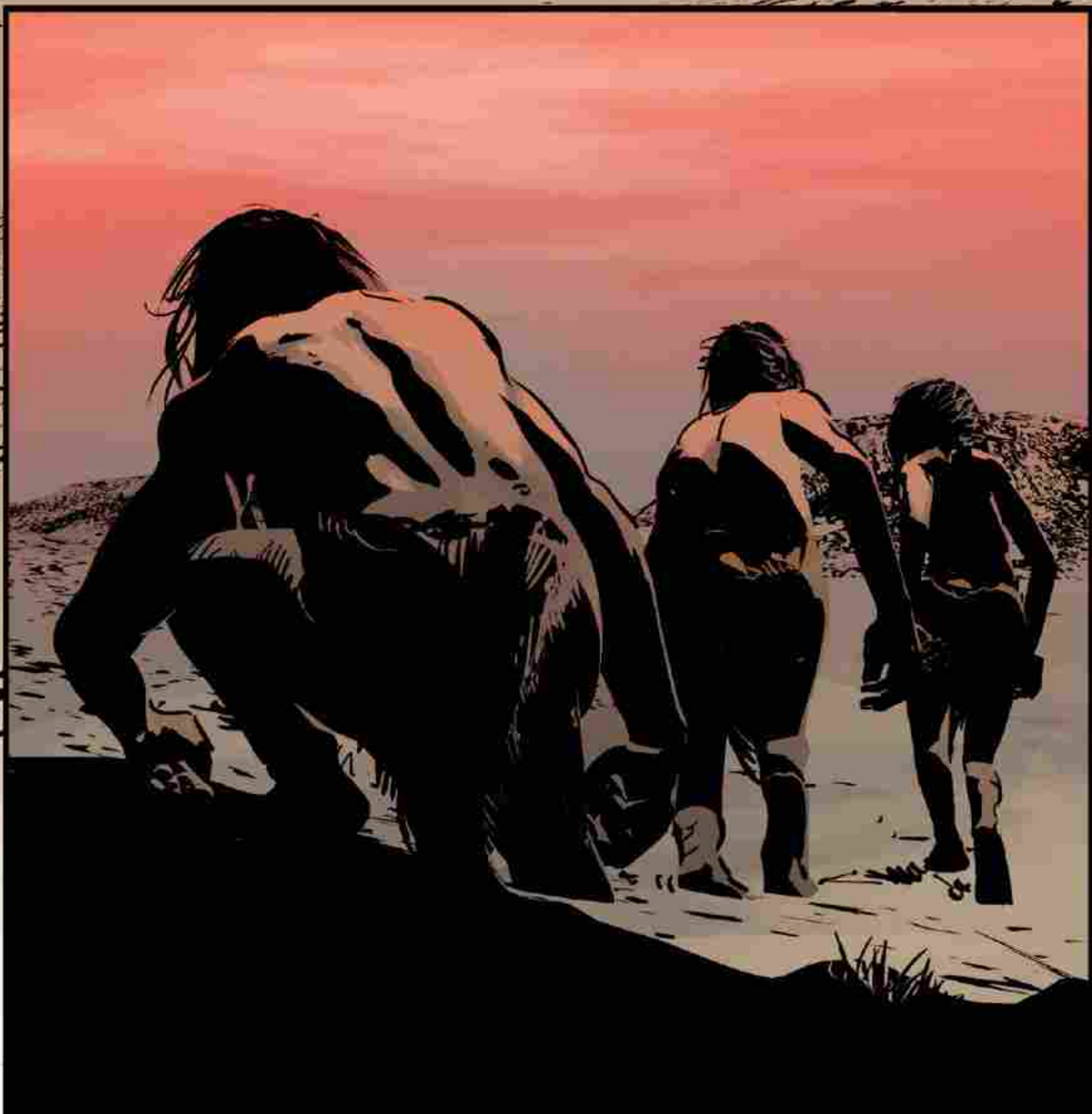
YOU NEED TO START A **RELIGION**.





"TOGETHER..."

EARTH-129061.
THEN.



"THE FIRST INCURSION
OCCURRED AFTER SEVEN
YEARS OF MURDERING
MOLECULE MEN."

"IN YEAR EIGHT,
I FOUND MY
FIRST DISCIPLE.

"A SWAN."

I SAW
YOU.

I SAW
WHAT YOU
DID.

WHY'D YOU
HURT THAT
MAN?

BECAUSE
THAT MAN
WAS UNWILLINGLY
GOING TO HURT
US ALL.

AND
BECAUSE
I HAVE GOTTEN
VERY GOOD AT
PUNISHING HIM
FOR IT.

WHY ARE
YOU OUT
HERE ALONE,
CHILD?

WHERE
IS YOUR
FAMILY?

FAMILY
ALL DIED IN
A SENTINEL
CAMP.

I JUMPED
AWAY AS
FAR AS I
COULD.

SO
YOU'RE
SPECIAL.

I AM.

AND DO YOU
WANT ME TO
TEACH YOU HOW
TO STOP ANYONE
FROM HURTING
YOU EVER
AGAIN?

YES.

EVEN IF
IT HAS A
COST?

YES.

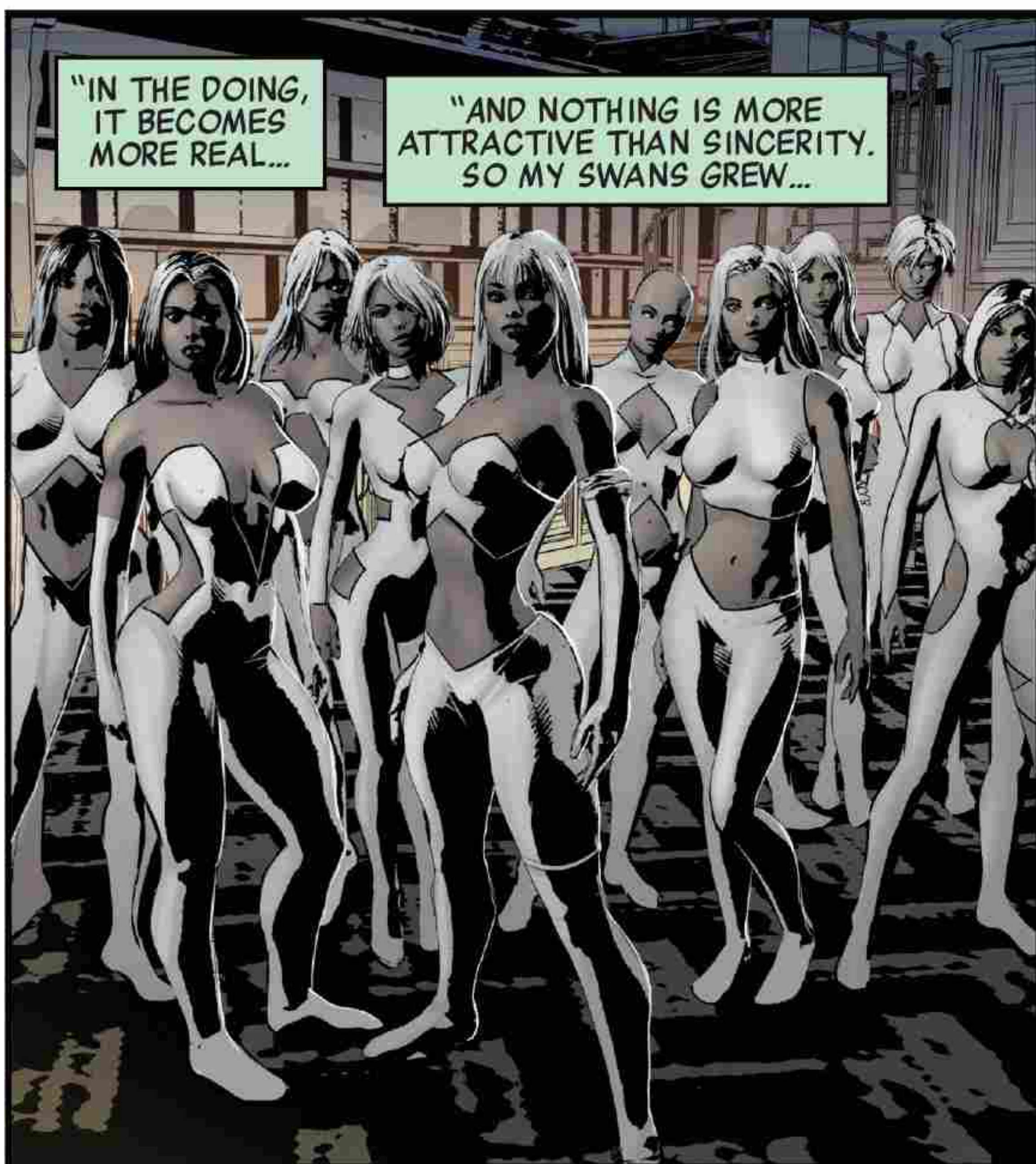


"ONE QUICKLY BECAME THREE, AS FAITH IN A THING MAKES IT A FORCE MULTIPLIER..."



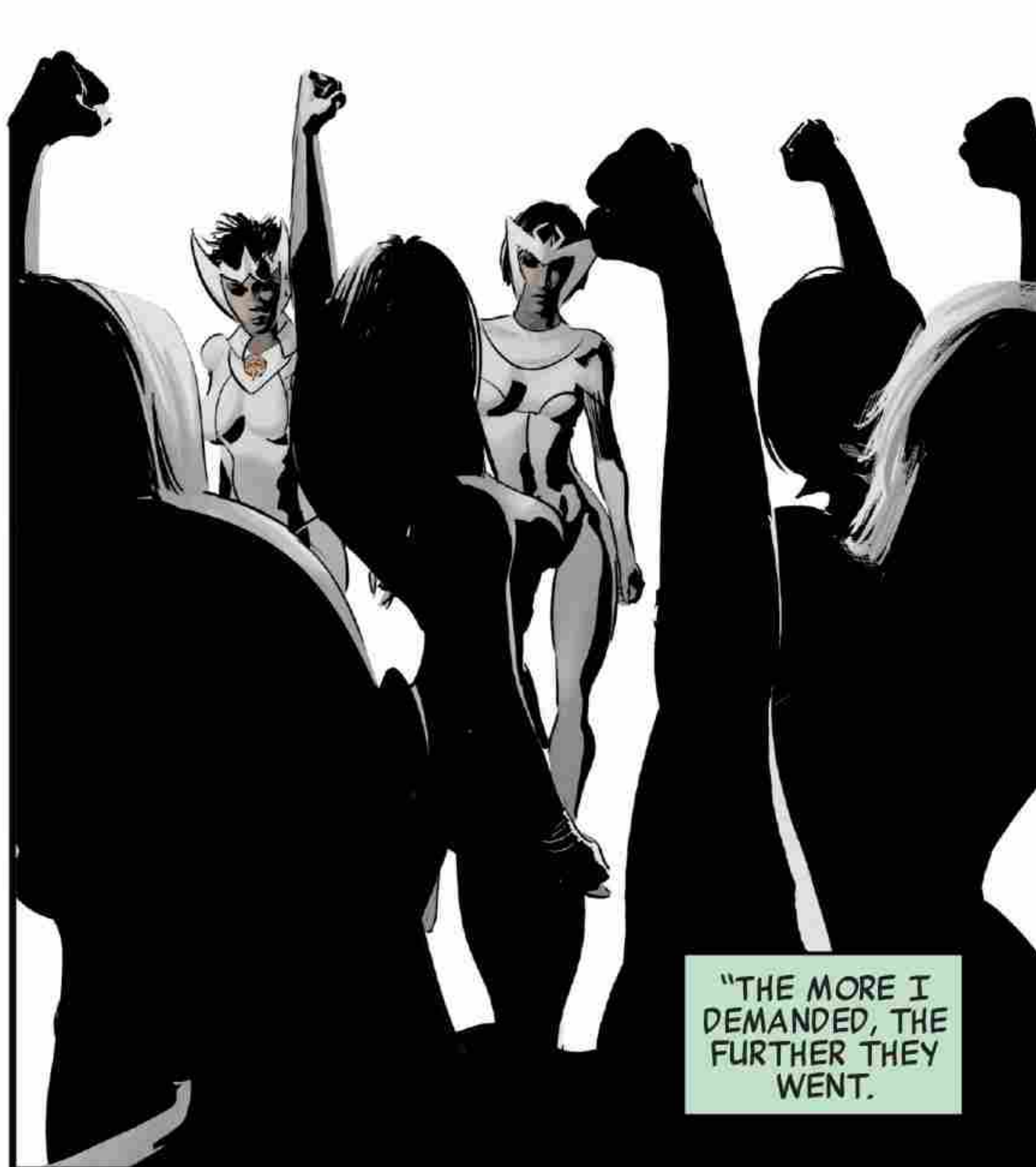
"AND ACTING ON WHAT YOU BELIEVE HAS A WAY OF SOLIDIFYING DOGMA."

"IT CHANGES THE WAY YOU THINK. IT CHANGES THE WAY YOU SPEAK."



"IN THE DOING, IT BECOMES MORE REAL..."

"AND NOTHING IS MORE ATTRACTIVE THAN SINCERITY. SO MY SWANS GREW..."



"THE MORE I DEMANDED, THE FURTHER THEY WENT."



"AND THE GREATER THEIR ACTIONS, THE MORE ATTENTION WE ATTRACTED."

"TEN YEARS IN, THE BEYONDERS REALIZED SOMETHING WAS VERY WRONG, AND ATTEMPTED TO DEDUCE WHY THEIR GREAT EXPERIMENT WAS FAILING.

"IN THE SAME WAY THAT THEY INTRODUCED A SELF-DESTRUCT MECHANISM INTO THE FABRIC OF THE MULTIVERSE...

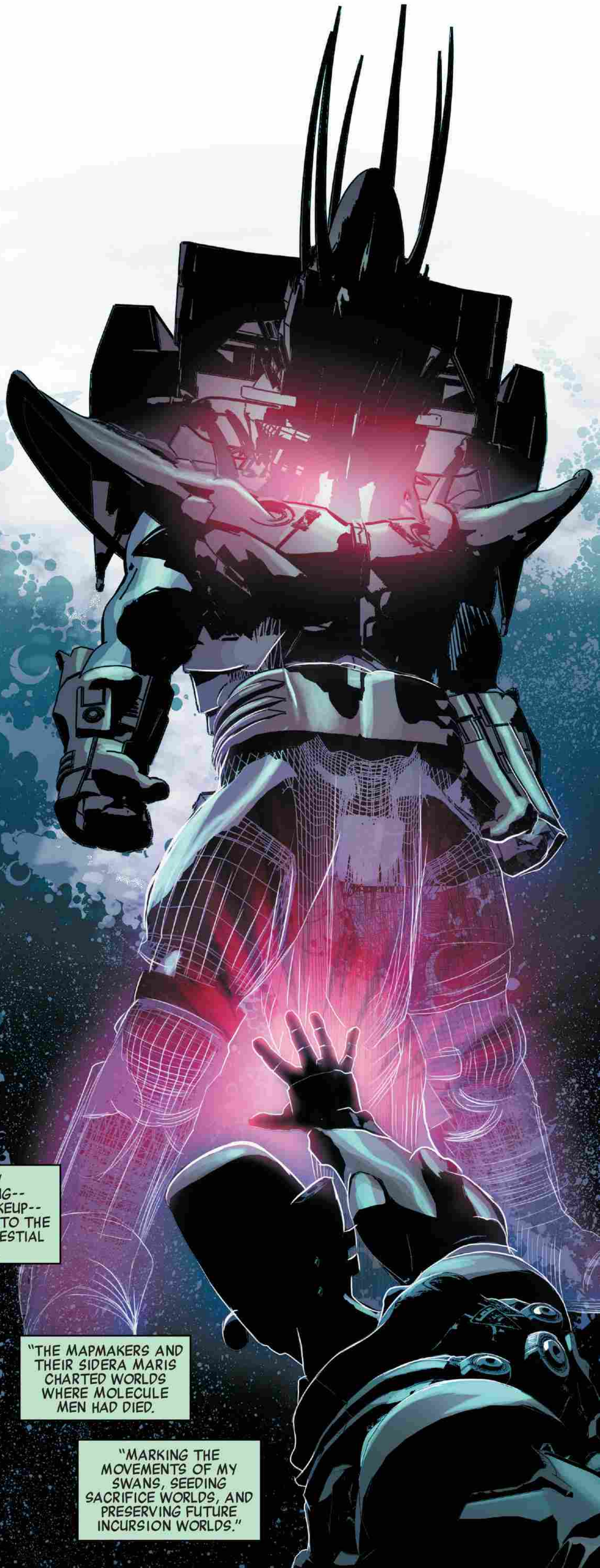
"THEY SPLICED A PROBLEM-SOLVING VIRUS INTO REAL SPACE...

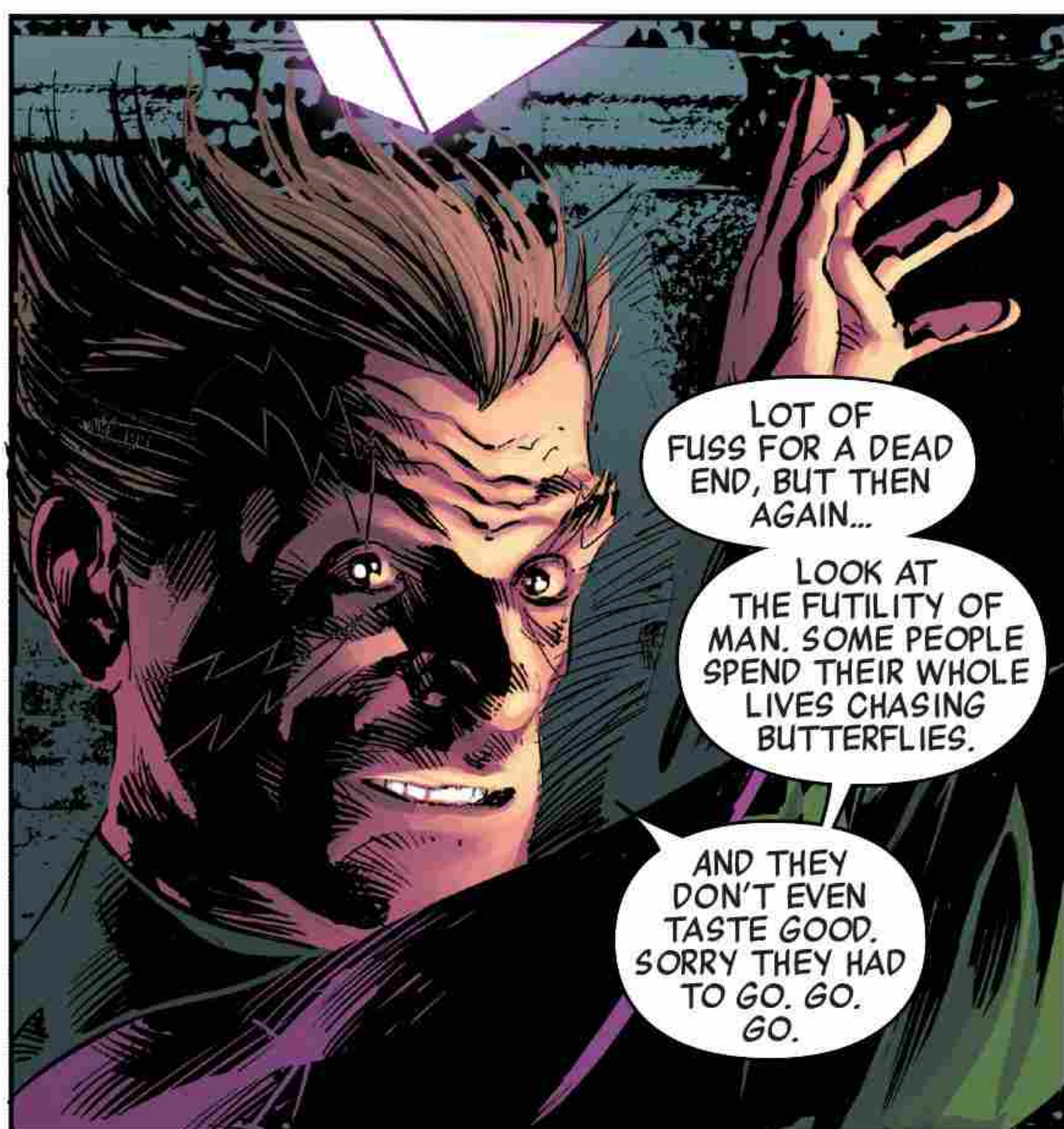
"AND AS A RESULT, ANY SELF-AWARE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CAPABLE OF TRANSUNIVERSAL TRAVEL WOULD BE AUTOMATICALLY INFECTED.

"ITS VERY PROGRAMMING-- ITS ENTIRE MAKEUP-- CONSCRIPTED INTO THE BEYONDERS' CELESTIAL INQUIRY.

"THE MAPMAKERS AND THEIR SIDERA MARIS CHARTED WORLDS WHERE MOLECULE MEN HAD DIED.

"MARKING THE MOVEMENTS OF MY SWANS, SEEDING SACRIFICE WORLDS, AND PRESERVING FUTURE INCURSION WORLDS."







ALL
APOSTATES BEGIN
AS BELIEVERS,
STEPHEN.

AND ALL
SCHISMS COME FROM
MISUNDERSTANDINGS...



"IT'S AN IDEA
THAT YOU
KNOW WELL...

"**YOU** HAVE ALWAYS
HAD YOUR SANCTUM
SANCTORUM. AND
IN THE TEMPLE
OF DOOM...

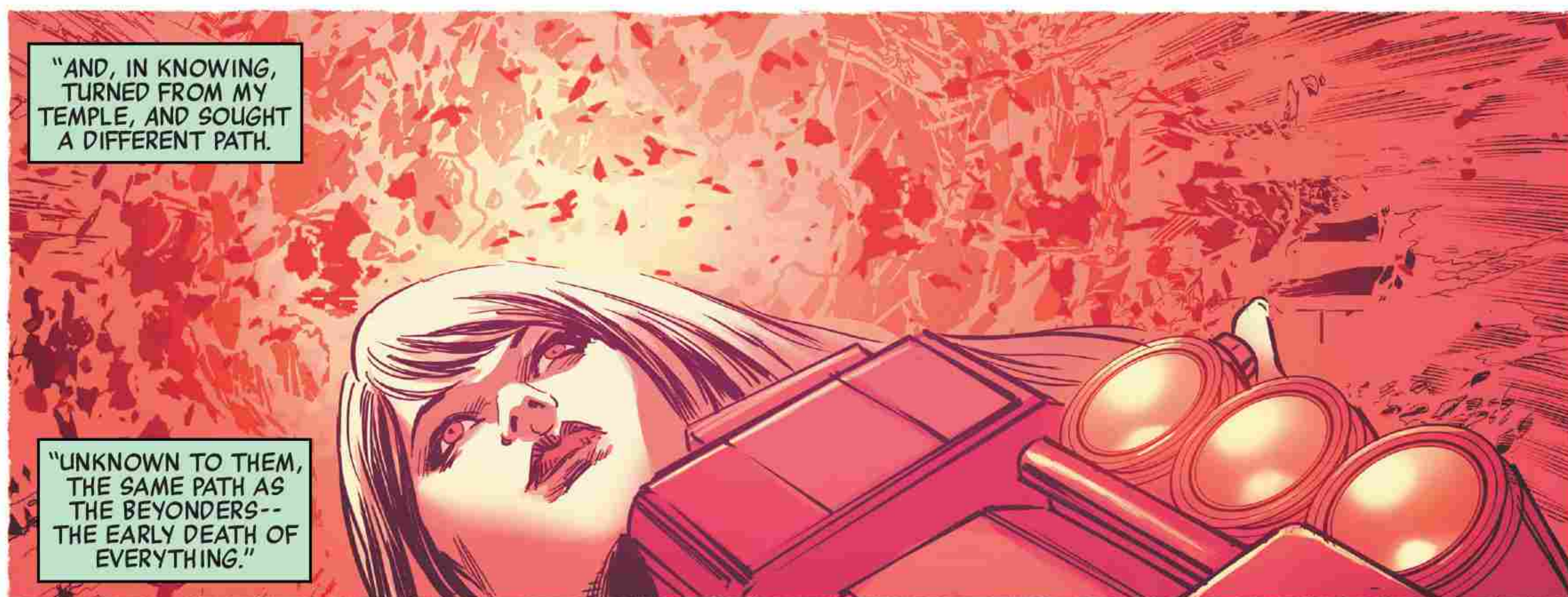


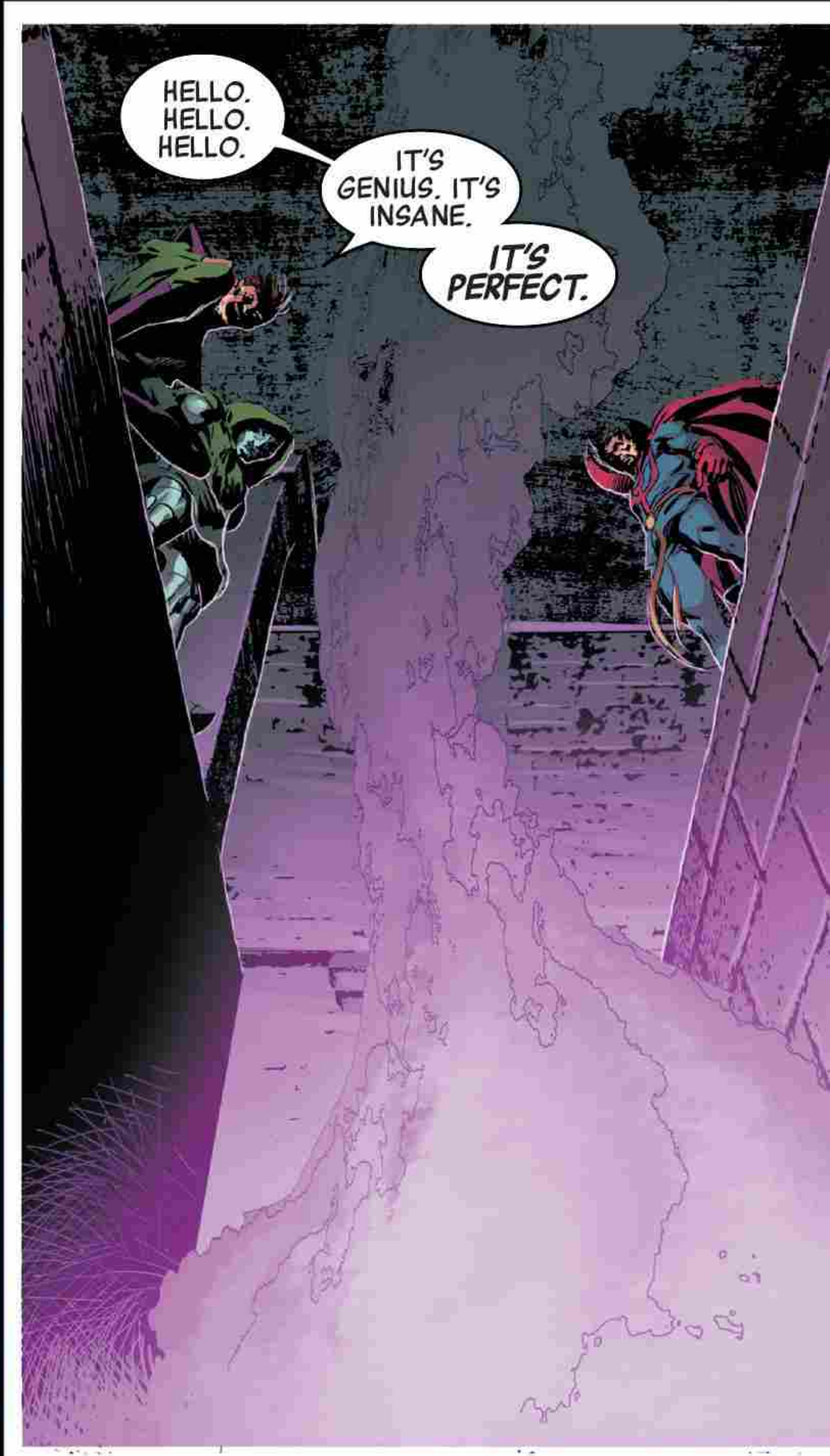
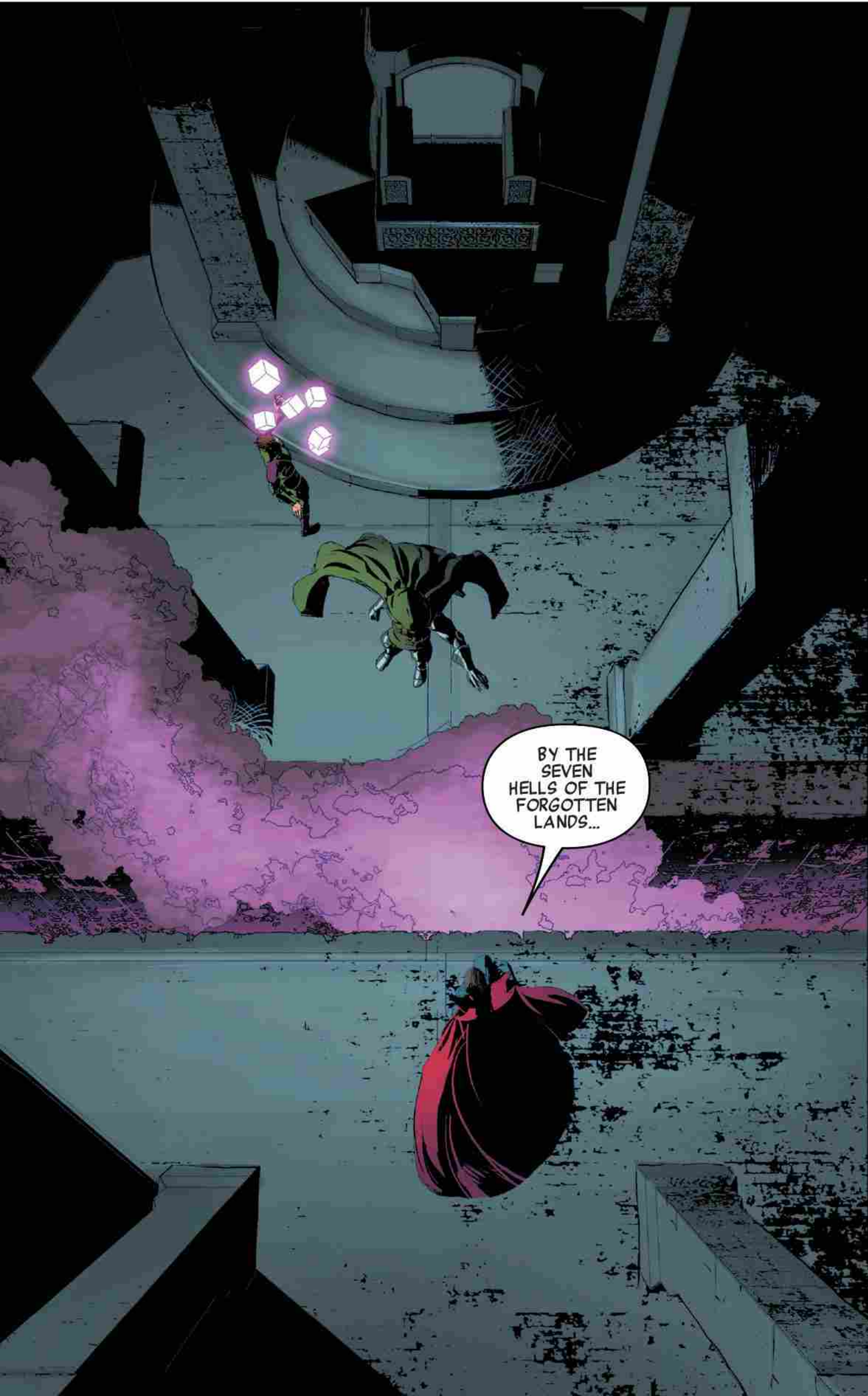
"...I HAD MY
MOST HOLY
OF HOLIES.



"THERE ARE SOME
SECRETS THAT CAN BE
TRUSTED TO NO ONE.

"WITH KNOWLEDGE COMES
WISDOM, AND AS I BEGAN
TO UNDERSTAND FULLY WHAT
WAS BEING ASKED OF ME, I
DEMANDED GREATER FAITH.







WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, VICTOR?



WHAT WAS NECESSARY.

I WENT WHERE THE ROAD LED ME.



HEY! IT'S GOT **MY** SEAL OF APPROVAL.

THUMBS. UP. UP. UP.



YOU SEE, AFTER QUITE SOME TIME, I BEGAN TO QUESTION THE OMNIPOTENCE OF MY ADVERSARY.

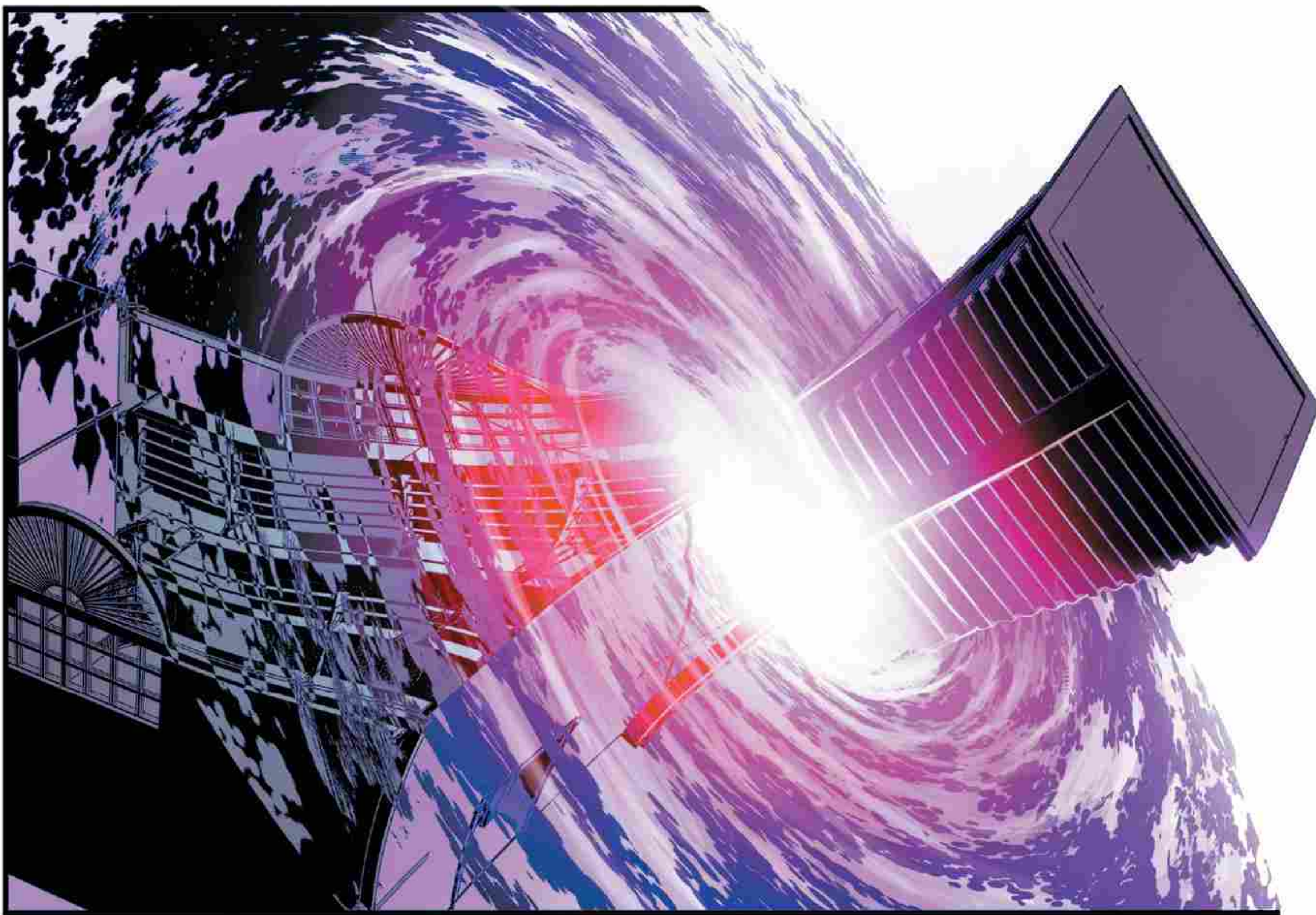
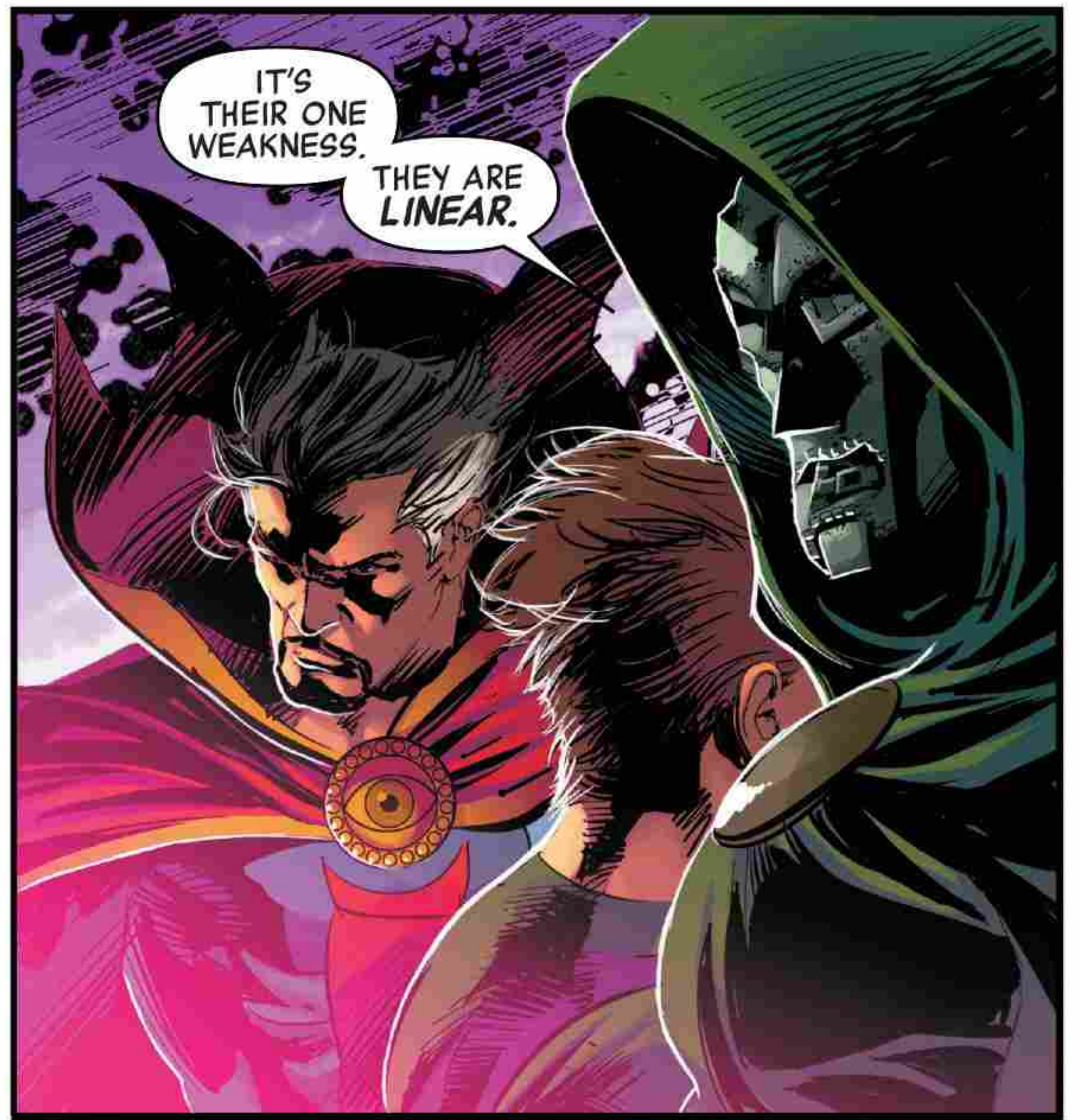
IF I WAS ABLE TO TRAVEL BACK IN TIME WITH MISTER REECE TO CONSTRUCT A PLAN TO DEFEAT THEM--AND EVEN IF IT APPEARED THAT PLAN WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL--COULDN'T THEY SIMPLY DO THE SAME THING...?



TRAVEL BACK IN TIME AND OVERPOWER ME AT THE GENESIS OF OUR CONTRARY MACHINATIONS?

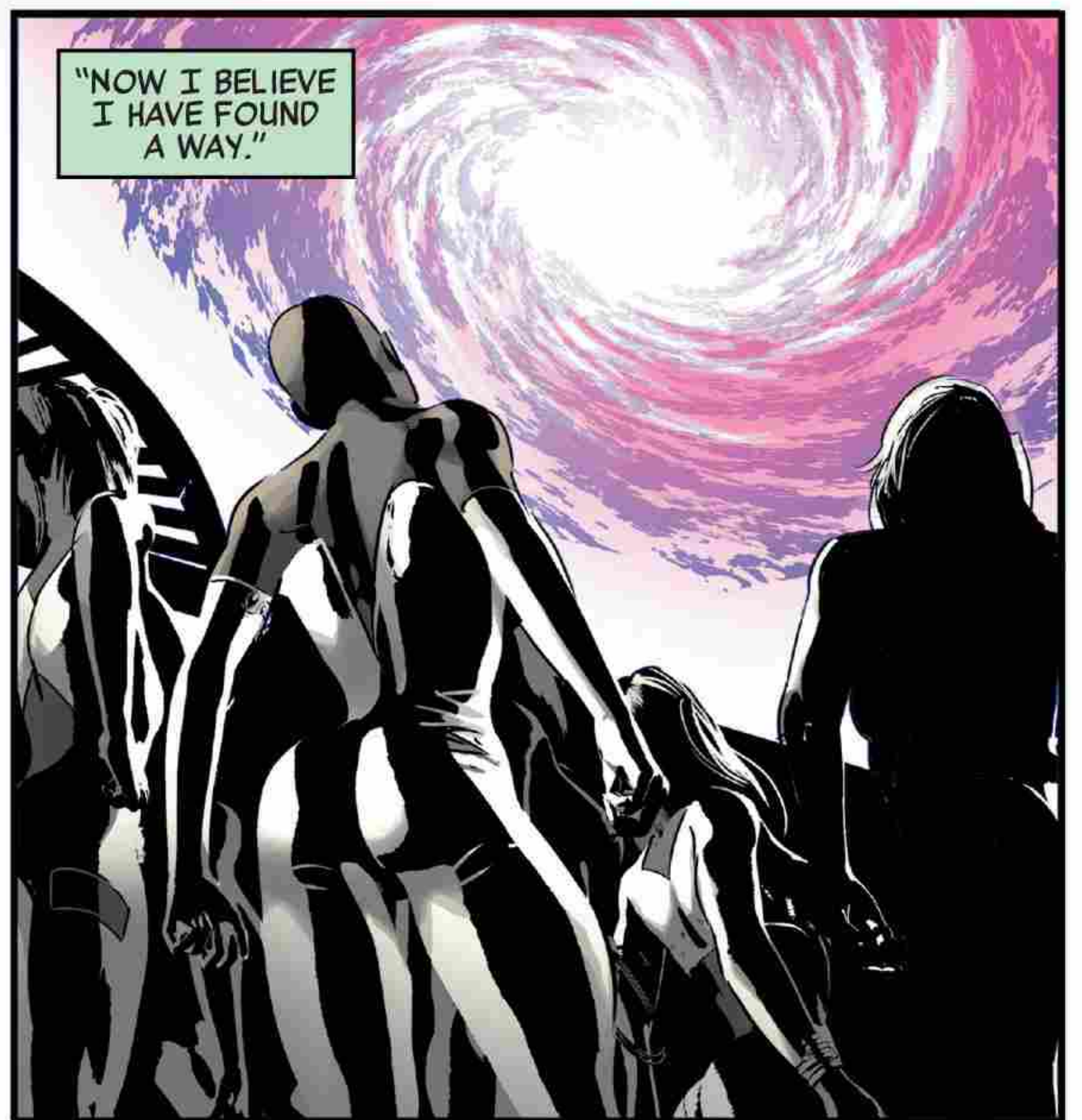
PUTTING ASIDE GENERAL THEORIES OF ATEMPORALITY AND THE OVERSIMPLIFICATION OF PARADOX, I REALIZED ONE THING...





THE ALL-POWERFUL BEYONDERS ARE CONSTRAINED--RESTRICTED--TO THEIR OWN SEQUENTIAL TIMELINE.

WHICH MEANT THAT IF I COULD **TRULY** FIND A WAY TO **OPPOSE** THEM, I WOULD HAVE A CHANCE...





"I HAVE
TO ASK,
VICTOR..."



"WHAT'S
THE POINT?"

"HOW IN ANY WAY
IS WHAT YOU'RE
DOING ANY BETTER
THAN THEM IF THE END
RESULT IS THE SAME?"



ASK
YOURSELF,
DOCTOR..."



WOULD
IT BE WORTH
IT IF WE COULD
AVOID OUR
CERTAIN
DOOM?

IF WE
COULD SAVE...
SOMETHING?

...
YES.



**We are
Beyond.**

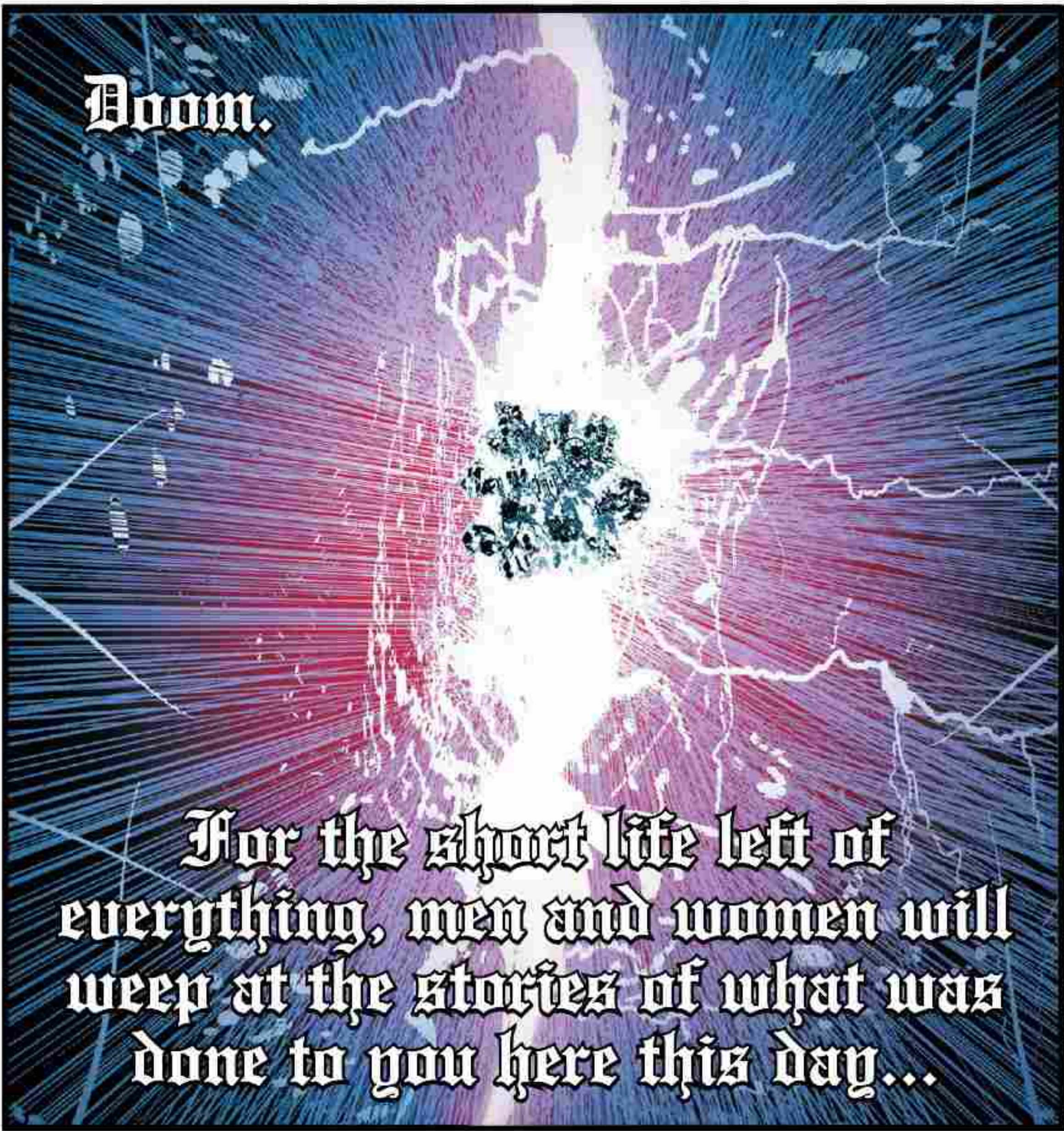
**Dreamers.
Destroyers.
All of reality
our whim.**

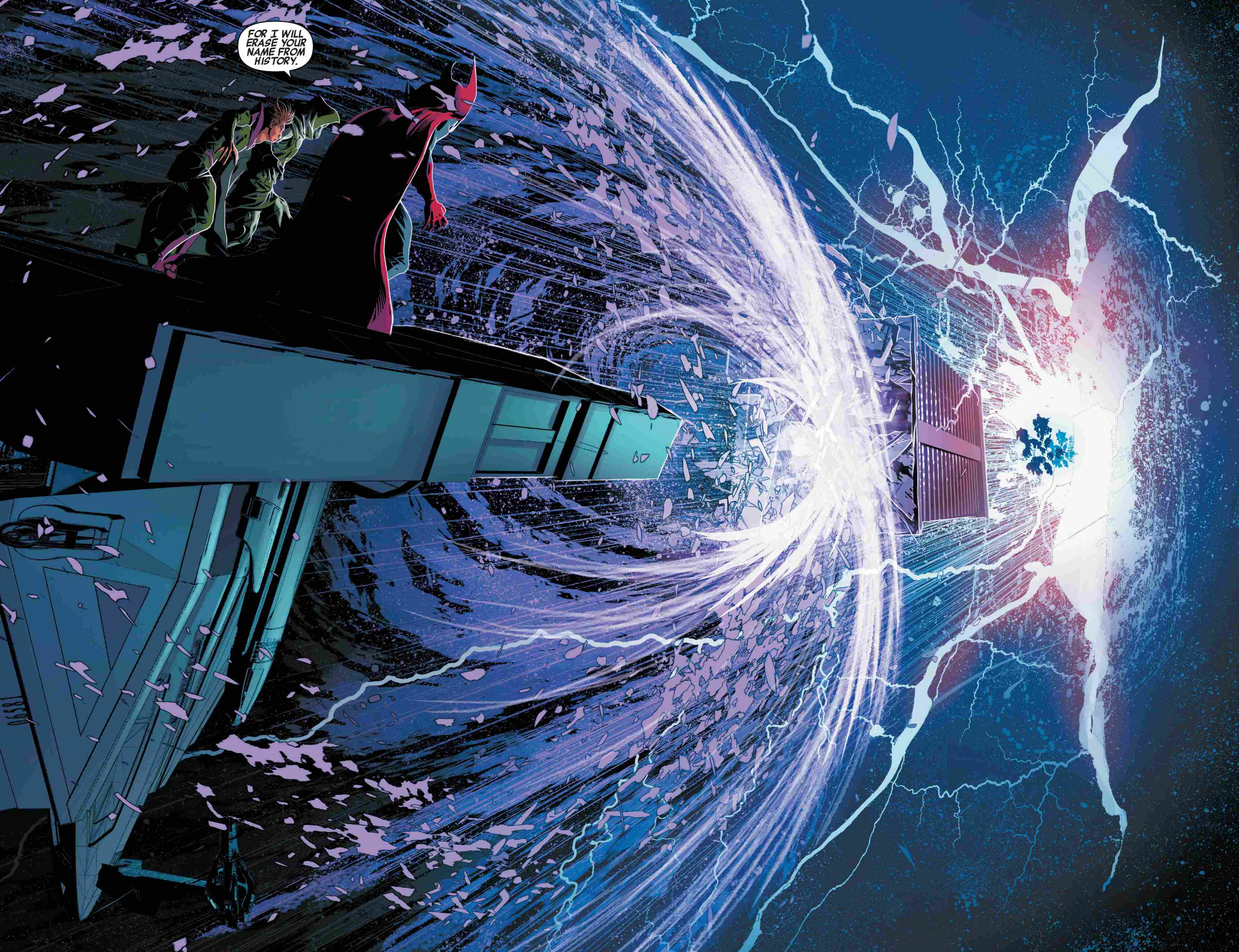
**Who dares
stand before
us?**



I.
DOOM.





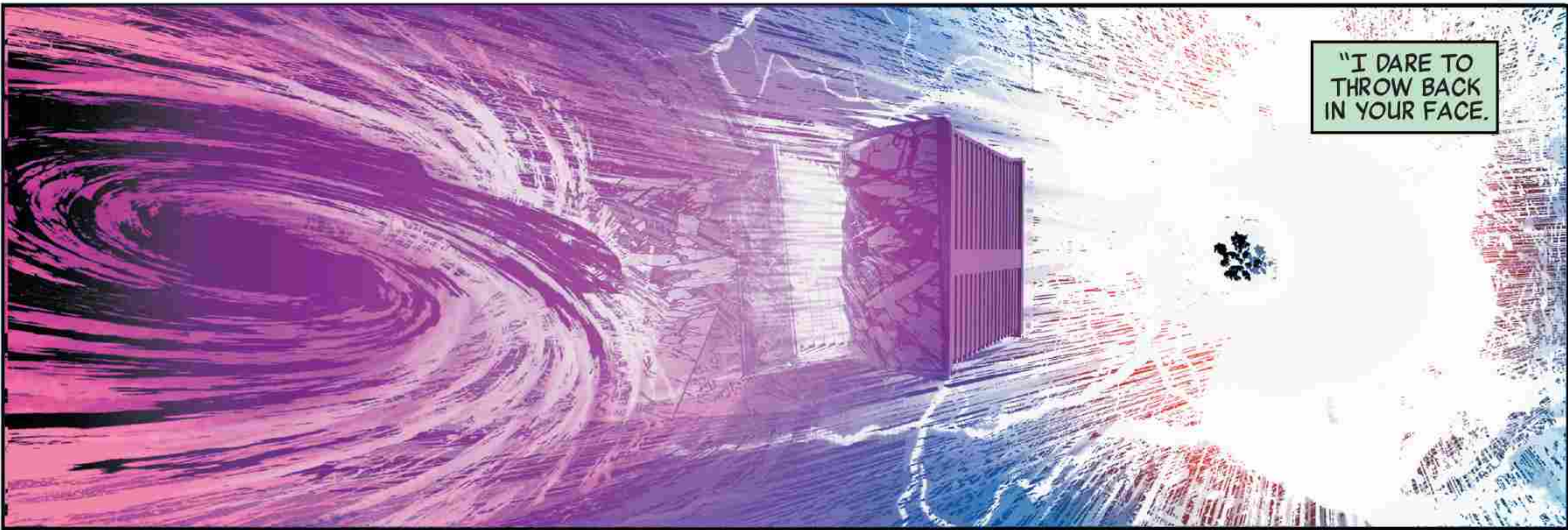




"YOU DARED
TO TEST US..."



"YOU DARED
TO TOY
WITH US..."

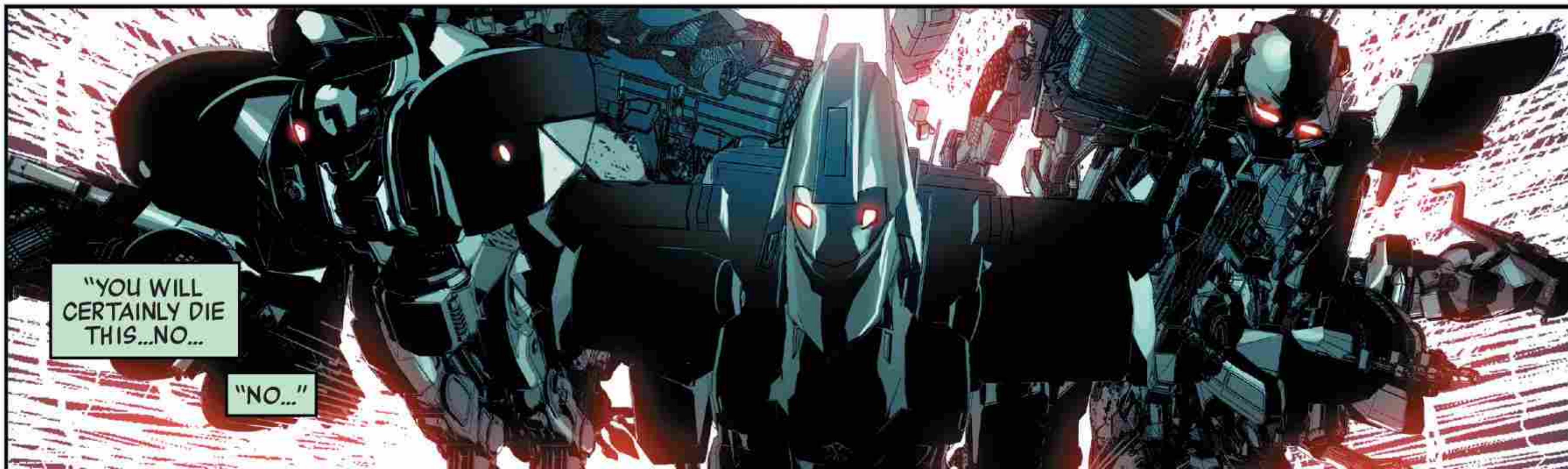


"I DARE TO
THROW BACK
IN YOUR FACE."



"DAMN YOUR
CAUSE."

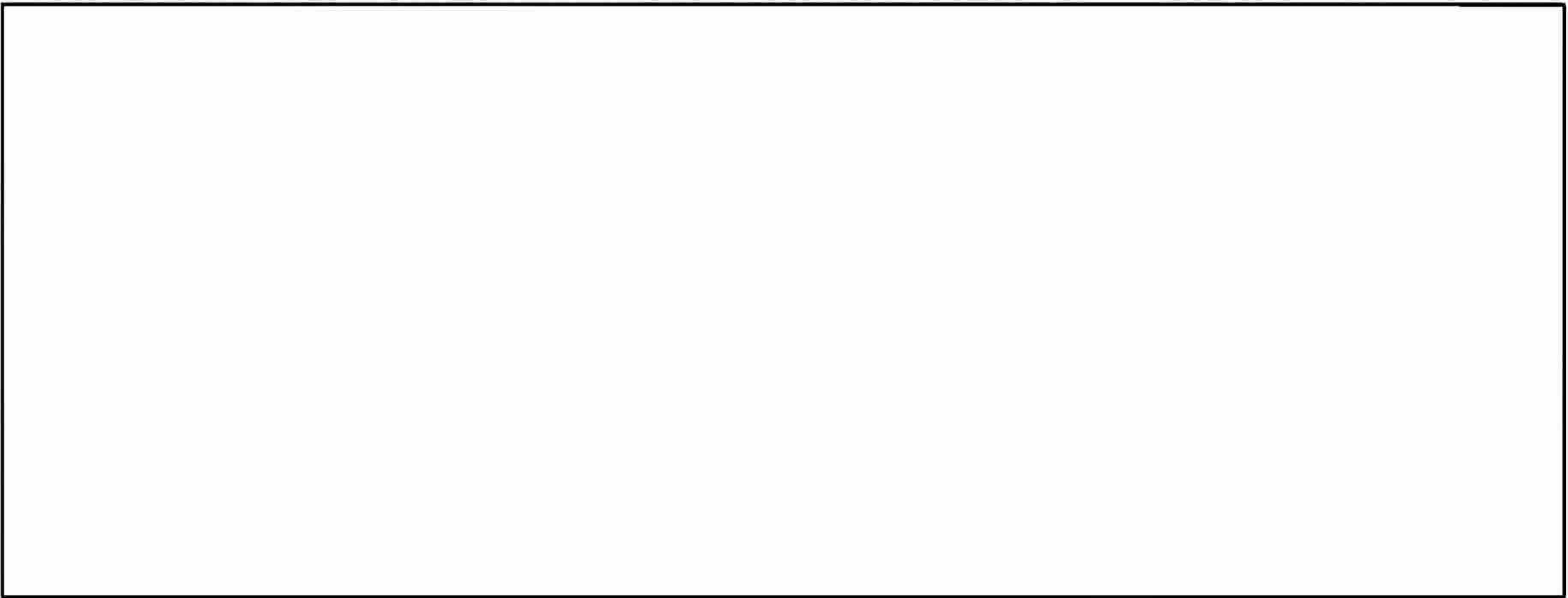
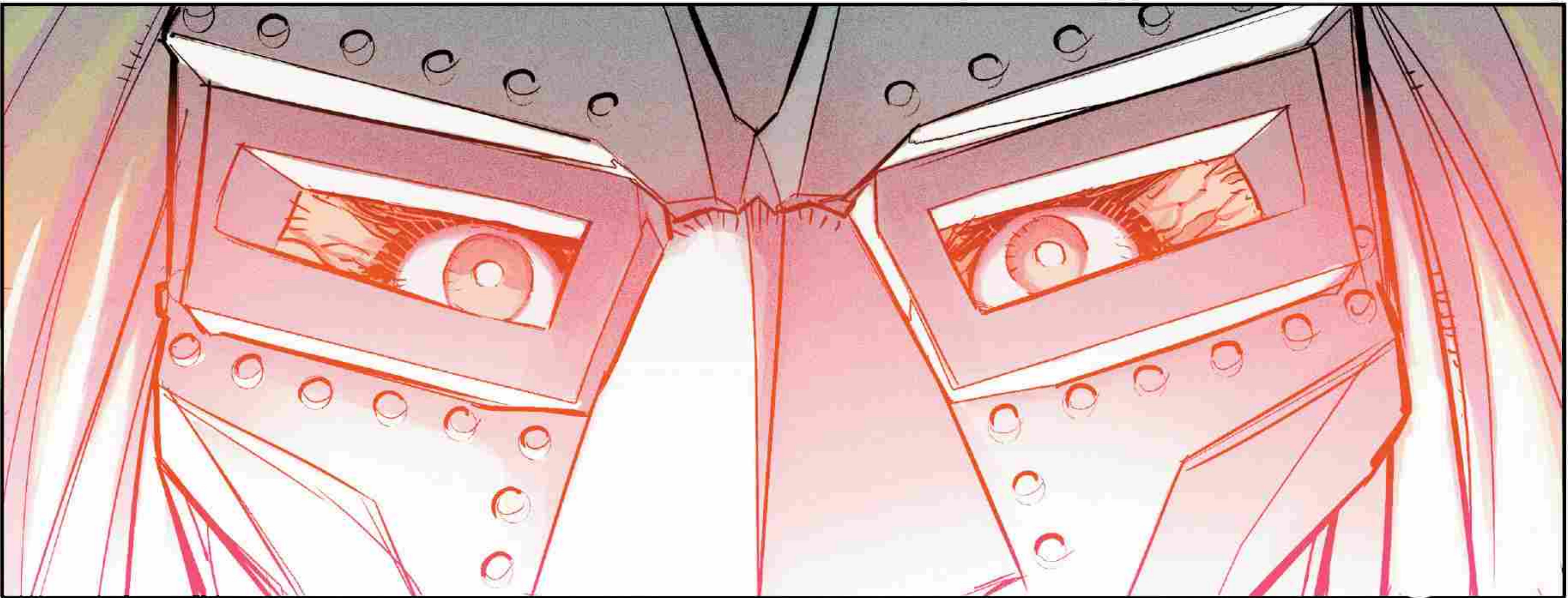
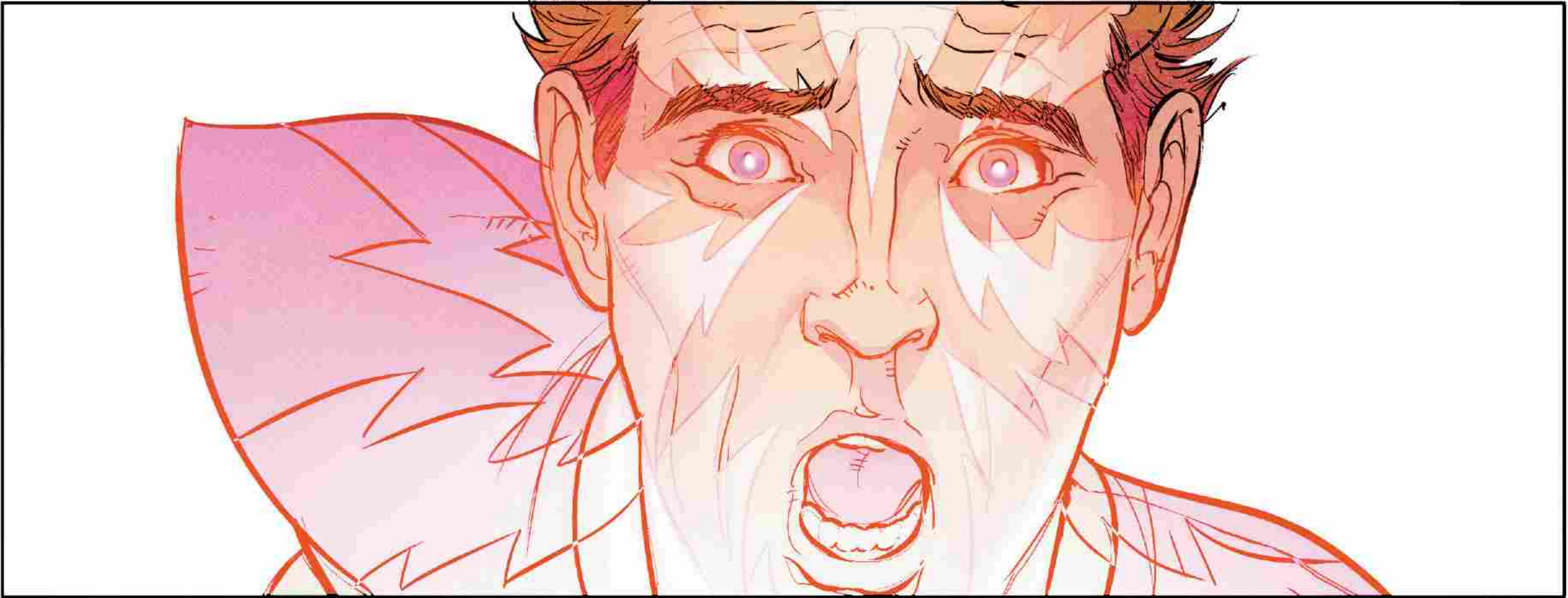
"DAMN THE
COST."



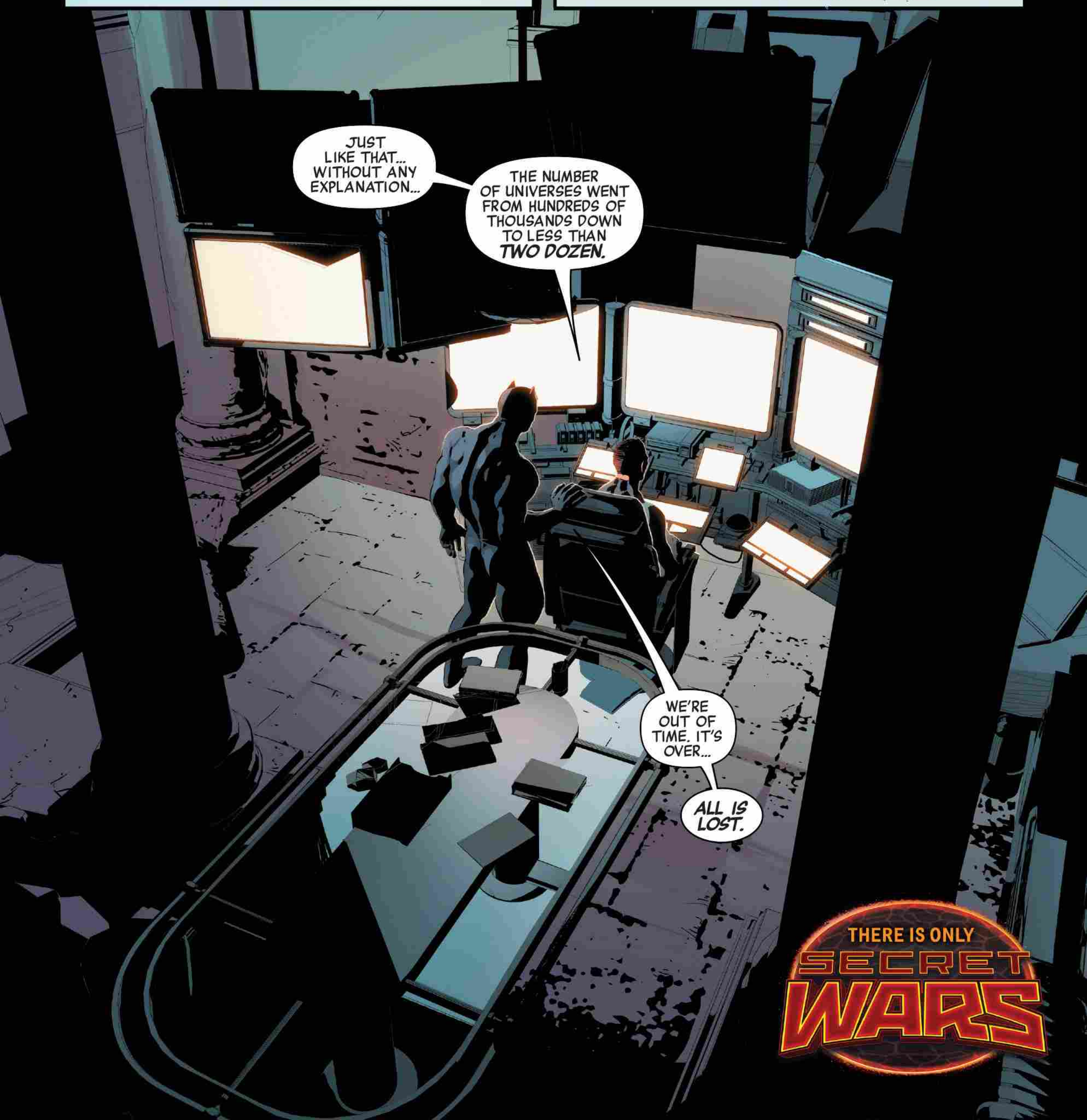
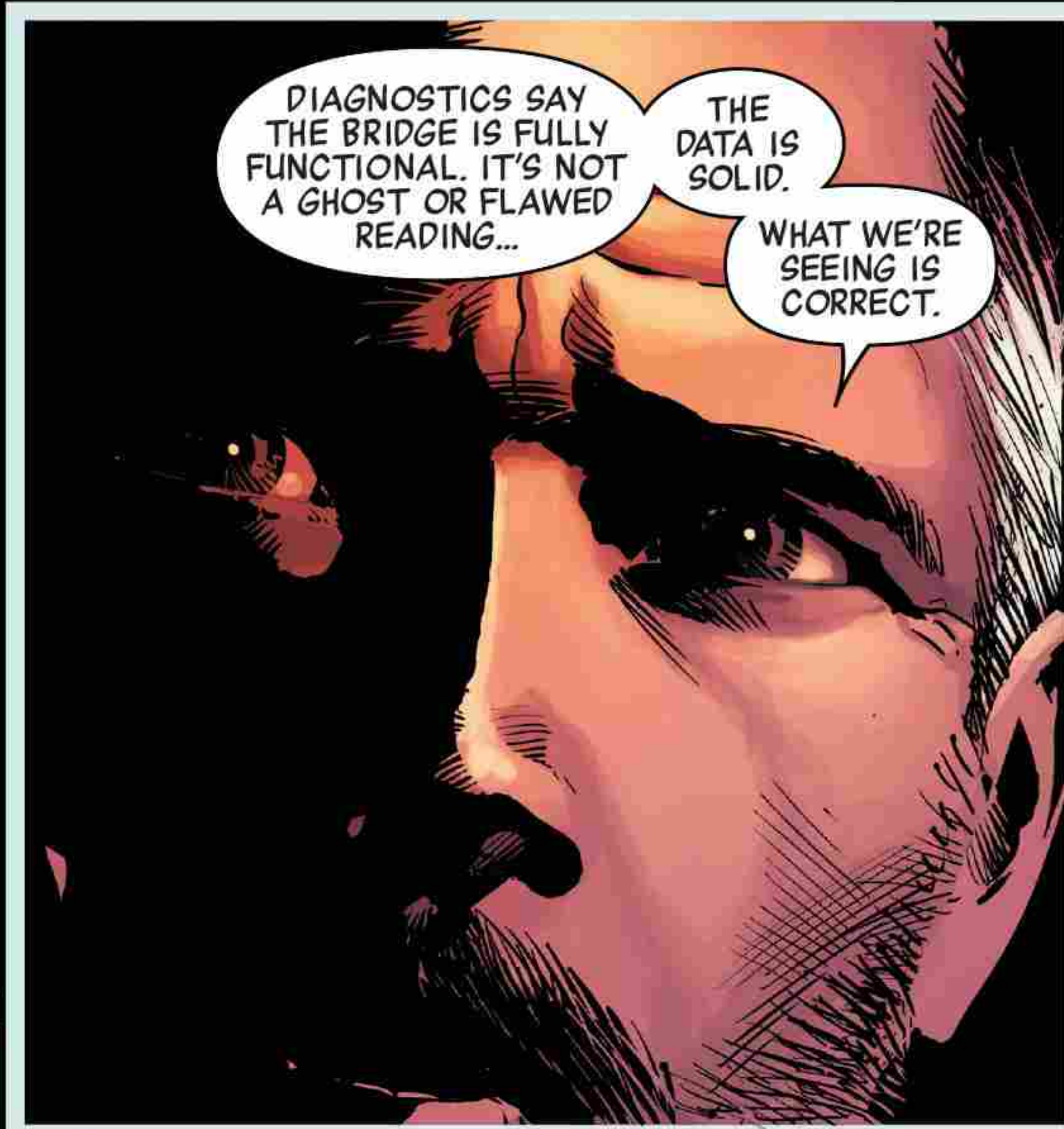
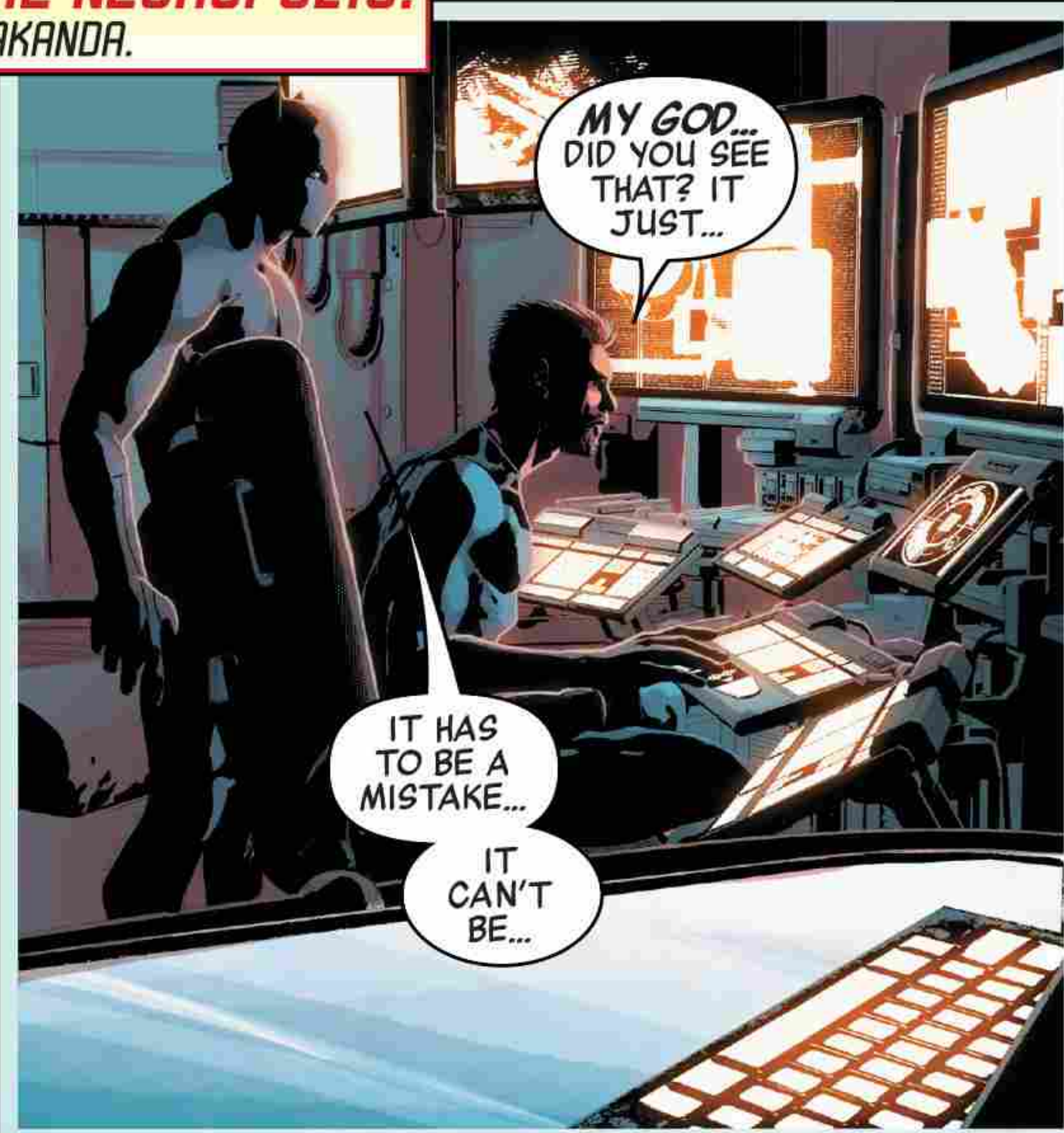
"YOU WILL
CERTAINLY DIE
THIS...NO..."

"NO..."





THE NECROPOLIS.
WAKANDA.



THERE IS ONLY
**SECRET
WARS**



ZOMBIE